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THE HISTORY
of
BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
by
LULA JETER PARKER



Bicentennial Edition
1754 - 1954

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The History *of* **Bedford County, Virginia**

By LULA JETER PARKER

The Colorful 200-Year Record of
One of Virginia's Oldest and
Proudest Communities

Bicentennial Edition

1754 - 1954

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BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

INTRODUCTION

The need for an authoritative, well-written history of Bedford County has long been felt. This feeling has been intensified by the arrival of the county's two-hundredth birthday, which is being celebrated this year (1954). It developed that such a history was already in being, the work of Lula Jeter Parker (Mrs. George P. Parker), Bedford County's historian.

No one approaches Mrs. Parker in the qualifications necessary to produce the one authoritative and at the same time highly readable history of Bedford County. Her book represents years of painstaking research and careful checking of records, traditions and personal accounts of the events which have made Bedford County and its people the splendid and unique community they form today.

Mrs. Parker's history has been many years in the writing; it has undergone several revisions. Parts of its have been borrowed for previous publications, and many writers have drawn, with or without credit, on this treasure house of fact and lore. Now for the first time, however, is it made available in one volume. Naturally, the Bicentennial year was the right time for its publication.

This publication is somewhat abridged from Mrs. Parker's original work, but it is believed that the essential facts and the true color and flavor of the Bedford County story have been retained in full. However, if any vital omissions are noted, the blame should fall on the publisher, not the author.

In order to show something of the background of the work, there is reproduced below Mrs. Parker's original preface to her work, written in 1938. Some of those mentioned in this preface have died since it was written.

The first concerted effort to collect historical data of Bedford County was in 1921, when Bedford, along with other counties of Virginia, was requested to produce a pageant depicting its history from the beginning—this to precede a state pageant to be given in Richmond May 22-26 of the following year.

A local committee was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to do the necessary research, interview the oldest inhabitants for stories and traditions, consult family Bibles for information of their forebears, etc.

The pageant, "The Shadow of the Mighty Peaks," was written by Dr. James Elliott Walmsley, once a teacher at Randolph-Macon Academy in Bedford. The roles were taken for the most part by descend-

ants of the characters portrayed in the episodes and served to awaken a vital interest in the participants and to arouse the people to a consciousness of their historic heritage.

In May, 1930, the Peaks of Otter Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized and began at once an intensive study of the county, visiting and photographing old homes, old churches and other historic spots, and gathering legends and traditions wherever they could be obtained.

As Historian of the chapter it has been my privilege to collect and assemble this data. Now the whole county is fast becoming history-minded and even children of the public schools are seeking more knowledge of their surroundings.

I am deeply grateful to all who have contributed material for this work, especially to Dr. Walmsley, Mr. S. S. Lambeth, Jr., Mrs. F. O. Thomas and Miss Susan A. Early, who have furnished biographical sketches and histories of old homes, and to Mr. Edward L. Stone, Dr. J. D. Eggleston and Mr. Clayton Torrence for reading this manuscript and advising me about its publication.

LULA JETER PARKER

Bedford, March, 1938

CHAPTER ONE

The Formation of the County

As is true of other counties of Virginia, Bedford was formed because settlers had already come into its territory and were too far removed from the seat of government for their convenience, due to the primitive means of travel at their disposal.

Lunenburg, its mother county, had been known as such only eight years, but its boundary was so extensive and its population increasing so rapidly that not only Bedford but Halifax (in 1752), Mecklenburg (in 1765), and Charlotte (in 1765) were taken from its territory. So tracing its pedigree, it is found that Bedford was formed in 1754 from Lunenburg and a small portion of Albemarle added, Lunenburg from Brunswick in 1746, and Brunswick from Prince George, Surry and Isle of Wight in 1732. Isle of Wight was one of the original shires of Virginia and was called Warrosquyoake. (This changing of names of the same localities makes historical and genealogical research in Virginia very difficult.)

The Act of the Virginia Assembly, or House of Burgesses, which authorized the formation of this new county was dated November, 1753, but it was not to become effective until May 10, 1754. It provided that "after the said tenth of May a court for the said County of Bedford be constantly held by the justices thereof upon the fourth Monday in every month." (And for generations "Court Day" on the fourth Monday was a Bedford County institution.) The name Bedford was chosen by the Assembly in honor of John Russell, fourth Duke of Bedford, at that time Secretary of State of Great Britain.

The first Order Book (Minutes of the Court), 1754-1761, shows "That at the House of Mathew Talbot, Gent., in the County of Bedford, on Monday, the 27th day of May, in the twenty-seventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King George II, etc., Anno Dom. 1754, His Majesty's Commission of the Peace of this County, under the seal of this Colony and Dominion of Virginia, bearing date of the 12th day of May, Instant, directed to John Pane, Mathew Talbot, John Phelps, John Anthony, William Callaway, John Smith, Jr., Zachary Isbell, Robert Page, John Sutton, Thomas Pullin, Edmond Manion, and Richard Callaway, Gent., was openly read as was in like manner his Majesty's Deditus Potestatum under the said seal and under

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

the same date for administering the oaths, etc.

"And thereupon pursuant to the said Dedimus the said John Pane took the usual oaths to his Majesty's Person and Government and took and subscribed the Adjuration Oath and also subscribed the test and also took the oath of a Justice of the Peace and of a Justice of the County Court in Chancery, all which oaths were administered to him by Zachary Isbell and Robert Page. Then the said John Pane administered all the aforesaid oaths to the said William Callaway, John Smith, Jr., Zachary Isbell, Robert Page, Thomas Pullin, and Edmond Manion, who took the same and subscribed the said Abjuration Oath and test."

At this same Court "Benja. Howard produced a Commission to be Clerk of this Court and took the Oath of his office." John Harvey, Clement Reade and James Cary, Gent., "took the Oath of Attorneys and admitted to practice in this Court and the said Reade also sworn his Majesty's Atto. Genl. in this Court." And thus Bedford County had its beginning.

There being no meeting place provided as yet, the Court continued to sit at the "house of Mathew Talbot" until November 25th, when "His Majesty's Writ of Adjournment and Precept for adjourning this Court from the said Talbot's house to the Courthouse lately erected in said County were severally read and the Court adjourned according to the demand thereof.

"Ordered that the Court be adjourned until tomorrow 10 o'clock at the Courthouse at William Callaway's."

Matthew Talbot (1699-1758) was the son of Charles Talbot of Maryland and was the first of his family to settle in Virginia. He married first, in 1722, Mary Williston and had sons, Charles, Matthew, Jr., James and John. His second wife, whom he married in 1737, was Jane Clayton, and she bore him two more children, Isham and Martha. Matthew Talbot was the first presiding justice of Lunenburg County and prominent in all local affairs of both church and state before Bedford County came into being, and it was but natural that he and his son, Charles, should have been chosen to define the boundaries of the new county. His home was in the vicinity of what is now Forest and he offered to donate a site on his land for the Courthouse, but a more central location was desired and his offer was not accepted. He was Colonel of the Bedford County Militia, a presiding justice, sheriff, and a vestrymen of Russell Parish, which parish embraced Bedford County.

The Courthouse mentioned above was a rude structure built by William Callaway on land donated by him for the county seat. The following extract is taken from the deed to this land dated March 20, 1757:

"Witnesseth: That Whereas the said William Callaway at a

THE FORMATION OF THE COUNTY

Court held for the said County the twenty-sixth day of August one thousand and seven hundred and fifty-four did agree to give the said County one Hundred Acres of Land at the Forks of the Roads near his house to erect a Courthouse and Prison for use of said County and to make a deed in fee simple to the Court for fifty acres, Part thereof at any time when Required, and to convey the other fifty acres when he should obtain a patent for the same;

"And Whereas at a Court continued and held for the said County of Bedford the twenty-fifth day of November one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five the said Richard Callaway, Zachary Isbell and Benjamin Howard by Order of the said Court were appointed Trustees for said County, for the said William Callaway to make a deed to in fee simple for the said Land in trust, to be laid off by them into Lots and sold for the use of the County upon such terms as shall be Prescribed by the said Court for each Lot or Parcel of Land, and to make conveyances for the same in fee simple" etc.

William Callaway (1714-1777) was the son of Joseph Callaway, Jr., of Caroline County, Virginia. He settled in Brunswick County about 1740, and Dinwiddie's "Official Records" states that he patented 15,000 acres of land in the counties of Lunenburg, Halifax and Bedford. He was a colonel in the French and Indian Wars, and in 1758 was appointed County Lieutenant by the Crown. He was a presiding justice of the Court and represented Bedford in the House of Burgesses from 1754 to 1765. He married, first, in 1735, Elizabeth Tilley, who bore him five children, the eldest of whom was James, also prominent in county affairs. James was thrice married and was the father of twenty-two children, among them, Frances, wife of "Jemmy" Steptoe, clerk of Bedford County for 54 years. James was an officer in the French and Indian Wars, member of the Committee of Safety in 1774, represented the county in the House of Burgesses from 1766 to 1769, built the first iron furnace south of the James River, was treasurer of New London Academy, etc.

William Callaway was married a second time, about 1752, to Elizabeth Crawford, and four children were born to them. His sons were all Revolutionary soldiers and men of wealth and influence. His portrait hangs in the Bedford Circuit Court room. Many of his descendants are still living in Bedford and her daughter counties, Campbell and Franklin.

His brother, Richard Callaway, was Colonel in the Colonial army, owned land near the foot of the mountains east of the Peaks of Otter but lived at New London also. It is said that these Callaways were the first to clear land and plant corn in this county. Richard Callaway was also married twice and was the father of fifteen children. He made

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

several trips to Kentucky with Daniel Boone and moved his family there in 1775. The next year two of his daughters, Elizabeth and Frances, and Jemima Boone were captured by Indians, and after many romantic experiences were rescued unharmed. On March 8, 1780, Col. Callaway and several companions were fired upon by a party of Shawnee Indians. He was killed and scalped. Two days later his body was recovered and buried within the fort. Callaway County in Kentucky was named for him. Many of Bedford's substantial citizens are descended from Richard Callaway through another daughter, Mary, who married Col. Charles Gwatkin and remained in Bedford County.

CHAPTER TWO

Topography and Natural Resources

Campbell County was taken from Bedford in 1782. Again, in 1786, Bedford gave of her territory for the formation of still another county, Franklin, to which Henry County also contributed. This left Bedford with 791 square miles, and it now ranks fifth in size in the state. It is bounded on the north by the James River for a distance of 18 miles, on the south by Staunton River for a distance of 20 miles, on the east by Campbell County for 21 miles, and on the west by the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, and Rockbridge for 31 miles. It is about 35 miles in length—east to west—with an average breadth of 25 miles.

A spur of the Blue Ridge Mountains juts down into the northwestern boundary of the county and serves as a barrier against western winds and storms. In this range are the celebrated twin Peaks of Otter with an elevation of some 4,000 feet, Headforemost Mountain, No Business Mountain, Big and Little Onion Mountains, Taylor's Mountain, Porter's Mountain, and others not so well known.

The following streams have their sources wholly within the limits of Bedford County, viz.: Goose Creek, which rises about eight miles west of Montvale and flows through the rich "Goose Creek Valley" in a southeasterly direction into Staunton River near Leesville, in Campbell County. It gathers its waters from many smaller streams in its course, among them Sheep Creek, Enoch's, Wolf, Stony, Body Camp, Difficult, Rock Castle, Crab Orchard, Clover Creek, and others. Big Otter Creek flows also in a southeasterly direction into Staunton River. The numerous headwaters of this beautiful stream may be likened to the ribs of a palm leaf fan, reaching out in every direction so as to enable the gurgling spring waters from the mountain sides to have a sure outlet to the sea. Battery, Hunting, and Read Creeks flow into James River at and below Big Island, and Cove Creek near Coleman Falls, and Judith and Ivy Creeks empty into the James still farther down. Falling and Beaverdam Creeks, in the western part of the county, rise between Green's Knob and Weaver's Knob and flow south into Staunton River.

The soil of Bedford County is varied. The mountain soil is of a dark chocolate color and is rich in vegetable matter. This soil produces successfully the cereal crops, but seems even better adapted

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

to cabbage and Irish potatoes, and is unsurpassed for apples. The soil adjacent to this is known throughout Virginia for its general adaptability to crops of every kind—cereals, grasses, tobacco, fruits, and vegetables. Heavy crops of corn are grown on these lands, in many cases surpassing the rich yield of creek and river bottoms. On the south side of the county is the light gray soil, underlaid with red clay, which gives it a "bottom" and renders it susceptible and retentive of high improvement. The principal crops here are the cereals, grasses, and a very fine grade of tobacco. Fruits succeed well also, especially peaches.

Mineral resources of iron, feldspar, barite, asbestos, soapstone, and building stone are found in Bedford; iron ore near Villamont; feldspar near Forest, Bellevue and Moneta; barite at several places in the county, particularly near the Campbell County line and on Goose Creek; asbestos about 15 miles south of the town of Bedford; and soapstone just west of New London and on Goose Creek.

Bedford County was originally one of the best timbered sections of the state. It was not unusual, during slavery times, to see the finest timbered lands cleared for tobacco—the Negroes must be kept employed. Rails enough to fence the cleared land were split from the best of the timber and the remainder collected in piles and burned. This was called "burning a new ground," and this process of destruction has been continued, in a lessening degree, even down to the present day. The United States Government has purchased large areas of forest lands in the mountain regions of the county and included them in the Natural Bridge National Forest. In the Bedford area are white pine, hemlock, poplar, and white oak trees. On the dryer hillside grow yellow pine, white and black oak, locust, hickory, gum, dogwood, maple, and other varieties of timber. Chestnut, once plentiful here, has become almost extinct because of a blight which has swept the country. Chinquapins are no longer plentiful as in years past, but black and white walnuts, shellbark hickory nuts, and hazel nuts furnish pleasure for children and food for squirrels.

The mountain streams of the county are well supplied with beautiful spotted trout, and in the streams of the lowlands are found suckers, perch, carp, pike, black bass, mullet, catfish, and many other varieties of fish.

Wild animals found here are bear and deer occasionally, lynx, mink, weasel, beaver, muskrat, and groundhog more frequently, while in great abundance are the fox, raccoon, o'possum, skunk, wild cat, rabbit and squirrel. The wild fowl are geese, ducks and snipe, along the streams, sometimes cranes in the marshes, and turkeys on higher ground, but the most beautiful and appetizing of all the game birds

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

are the quail—called partridges in Bedford—which are protected by rigid laws. No trapping of them is allowed, none can be sold, and they can be hunted for only a short period during the year.

The song birds of this section are the mocking bird, chipping sparrow, ground sparrow, brown thrush, cardinal, wren, blue bird, lark, dove, oriole, bullfinch, chickadee, and linnet. Other birds are the woodpecker, crow, black bird, robin, buzzard, hawk, eagle, owl, cuckoo, cat bird, pigeon, and humming bird.

The wild flowers of Bedford County are a constant delight to nature lovers from the blooming of the first "Johnny-jump-up" in April until the fading of the last fall aster in October. The white dogwood and red bud (Judas tree) vie with each other in harmony with the tender green of the forests to do honor to the early spring, while the wild honeysuckle (azalea), violets, and tiny bluetts furnish blossoms for May baskets. Even before these, the fragrant trailing arbutus may be found in some places by removing the leafy covering from mossy banks.

Handsomest of all is the rhododendron growing on the mountain sides and on wooded cliffs along the streams. A close second is the mountain laurel, which is found in all forest areas of the county. Of the tenderer varieties there are the trillium, pink, Indian pipe, Jack-in-the-pulpit, lady's slipper, lily, columbine; and higher up in the mountains, the beautiful fringed gentian. In midsummer are hardier flowers, black-eyed Susans, iron weed, Queen Anne's lace, Joe Pye weed, thistle, and many others. Following these come the goldenrod, cat-tails, and fall asters, making a wealth of color and beauty from frost to frost.

CHAPTER THREE

The New London Era

At a Court held March 29, 1757, the following order was entered:

"The Court doth order that the Trustees of the county lay out the land belonging to the said county in lots of half an acre each, as long again as wide, to be sold for 1 pound, 1 shilling and 8 pence each, price to be paid on purchasing the lot, to the treasurer of the county, and that the Trustees make a deed in fee simple to the purchasers with the proviso that they build a house 20x16 on such lot within one year after purchasing same, and a brick or stone chimney within four years. Otherwise the said lot of land to revert to the county from the person failing to improve the same according to the said conveyance; and that the subscribers for the said lots, after being numbered, draw for their lots at May Court—and that the said town be called by the name of New London."

The plat of "New London Towne" is recorded in Deed Book "A", and with it a memorandum giving the names of the purchasers of the said lots, as follows: Col. William Callaway, James Callaway, Richard Doggett, Alexander Sawyers, William Burpass, John Thompson, Richard Doggett, William Ingles, William Christian, Ambrose Bramblett, Alexander Boreland, Matthew Talbot, Patrick Henrico, Col. Richard Callaway, John Thompson, John Callaway, John Payne, Howard & Mead, William Mead, Nattl. Gest, Courthouse, James Nuil, Sol. John Smith, Henry Darnald, Joshua Early.

The first courthouse, built by William Callaway in 1754, continued to serve its purpose, so far as is known, until 1766, when the Ju-ly Court ordered that a building be erected upon the Courthouse lot in New London Towne. Specifications for this important public building were as follows: "24x36 feet, 12 foot pitch, two 12 foot square rooms with a brick chimney, a fireplace in each room, wainscoted four feet high and plastered above the wainscoting to be well wrought with six glass windows; and Benjamin Howard, William Mead, William Irvine, Charles Lynch, Isham Talbot and Guy Smith to treat with the workmen to build the same on the courthouse lot, and that any three or more of them advertise the said house to be let at October Court next, one half of the money to be levied at the next laying the levy, and the other half at laying the levy in 1767. The house to be underpinned of brick, one half foot from the ground, the bench to be

THE NEW LONDON ERA

built in a quarter circle with the bar and two sheriff's desks, a clerk's table, and that the floor from the bar to the bench be raised and laid with plank, the other to be laid with brick and tile; and any other matter the Trustees shall see necessary they are to treat for in regard to the said house, not yet mentioned."

The most celebrated case ever tried in this courthouse was that of John Hook vs. John Venable to recover damages for some steers taken for the use of the Revolutionary army. Patrick Henry was attorney for the defendant and used his wonderful oratorical powers not only to win his case, but for the entertainment and amusement of his hearers. William Wirt, in his "Life of Patrick Henry," thus describes the trial:

"John Hook was a man of wealth and not supposed to be over-friendly to the American cause. During the distress of the American Army consequent on the invasion of Cornwallis and Phillips in 1781, a Mr. Venable, an army commissary, had taken two of Hook's steers for the use of the troops. The act had not been strictly legal, and on the establishment of peace, Hook, on the advice of Mr. Cowan, a gentleman of some distinction in the law, thought proper to bring an action of trespass against Mr. Venable in the district court, held at New London. Mr. Henry appeared for the defendant, and is said to have disported himself in this cause to the great delight and enjoyment of the hearers, the unfortunate Hook always excepted. After Henry became animated in the cause he appeared to have complete control over the passions of his audience; at one time exciting their indignation against Hook, when vengeance was visible in every countenance; again, when he chose to relax, and ridicule him, the whole audience was in a roar of laughter. He painted the distresses of the American army, exposed, almost naked, to the rigors of a wintry sky, and marking the frozen ground over which they marched with the blood of their unshod feet. 'Where was the man,' he asked, who had an American heart in his bosom, who would not have thrown open his fields, his barns, his cellars, the doors of his house, the portals of his breast, to receive with open arms the meanest solider in that little band of famished patriots? Where is the man? There he stands! Whether the heart of an American beats in his bosom, you, gentlemen, are to judge.'

"He then carried the jury by the power of his imagination to the plains around Yorktown, the surrender of which had followed shortly after the act complained of by Hook. He depicted the surrender in the most glowing colors of his eloquence; the audience saw before their eyes the humiliation and dejection of the British as they marched out of their trenches; they saw the triumph that lighted up every patriotic face, and heard the shouts of victory, the cry of 'Washington

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

and Liberty' as it rang and echoed through the American ranks, and was reverberated from the hills and shores of the neighboring rivers. 'But hark! What notes of discord are these that disturb the general joy? They are the notes of John Hook, hoarsely bawling through the American camp, "Beef! Beef! Beef!" The whole audience was convulsed."

Mr. Cowan was so completely overwhelmed by the torrent which bore upon his client that when he rose to reply to Mr. Henry, he was scarcely able to make an intelligent or audible remark. The case was decided almost by acclamation. The jury retired for form's sake, and instantly returned with a verdict for the defendant. Nor did the effect of Mr. Henry's speech stop here. The people were so highly excited by the audacity of such a suit that Hook began to hear around him a cry more terrible than that of beef; it was the cry of tar and feathers; from the application of which it is said that nothing saved him but a precipitate flight and the speed of his horse."

The legal record, which is still preserved in the clerk's office of Franklin County, Virginia, exhibits that Wirt was somewhat in error in his report of the result of the case. The original verdict appears to have been "for the plaintiff, one penny damages."

In the yard immediately across the road from the entrance of the Bedford Springs Hotel is an old locust tree covered with English ivy that, tradition says, was the one to which Patrick Henry tied his horse upon the occasion of this memorable speech. It is also said that there are cannon balls still in this tree, shot there by Tarleton's men.

By the end of the Revolution New London had attained considerable importance both as a town and as a shopping center. It boasted an arsenal, kept under guard of soldiers, several mercantile establishments, a tavern conducted by one Mr. Eckols, and numerous residences, in all some seventy or eighty houses.

Some of the merchants doing business here were Scotchmen, who, refusing to take the oath of allegiance, were compelled to leave the country. One firm was that of Robert Donald & Company, which bought of William Callaway, in 1776, 93 acres of land adjoining New London, and one lot in the town. The members of this firm were "James Donald, Robert Donald, Sr., Thomas Donald, Jr., Alexander Donald, Sr., Alexander Donald, Jr., James Buchanan, and Andrew Donald, of the City of Glasgow in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, Merchants and Partners."

Whether these were among the merchants who refused to take the oath of allegiance is not known, but certain it is that the last

THE NEW LONDON ERA

named, Andrew Donald, was loyal to his adopted country, for after the Revolution he followed Big Otter River to the foot of the Peaks of Otter, bought a large boundary of land, and established his home, which he called "Fancy Farm."

New London was the largest town in all this part of the state and, being the seat of one of the District Courts, it attracted not only justices, lawyers, witnesses and jurors, but was a social center for this section as well. County Court Day, held on the fourth Monday of each month, sometimes lasted two or three days. It was the big day of the month, and all who could do so came to New London on that day. Justices from the remote parts of the county started the day before and spent the night with friends on the way, especially if they were accompanied by their wives, as was frequently the case, since New London contained the only stores within reach. Trappers and hunters came afoot and on horseback, bringing furs, or perhaps wolves' heads to secure the bounty offered by the Court. Others came to meet friends, to transact business, or simply to enjoy the social intercourse.

Liquors flowed freely at Eckols' Tavern directly opposite the Courthouse and at Thompson's Ordinary, not far from it. Some imbibed too freely and were thereafter in the custody of friends or the jailer. There is mention of one Court session which had to be postponed two hours until an unnamed justice had time to sober up.

At 10 a. m., when Court convened, the coach of "Jemmy" Steptoe, Clerk of the County from 1772 to 1826, would arrive and draw up with a swing at the Courthouse steps. When he had alighted and the coach had pulled away, he would turn to the front, sweep his hat off with a flourish, and march in. This was a signal for the justices to file in behind him and for the sheriff to take his position near the front, blow a blast upon his trumpet, and make the announcement that Court now convenes.

This gathering at New London on Court Day must have been a colorful sight, for the gentlemen justices alone, to say nothing of their ladies, were dressed in colored silk velvet or broadcloth coats, knee breeches and silk stockings, usually white, and plumed hats worn over powdered hair and queue. Mr. Steptoe wore white broadcloth with blue silk trousers, and especially relished ceremony upon the occasion of Court.

CHAPTER FOUR

Liberty, the New County Seat

In 1782 when Campbell County was taken from Bedford and its boundary established, it was found that New London was in Campbell's territory, so it became necessary for Bedford to have a new county seat.

William Callaway, Jr., was now called upon. He was commissioned by the court to make a survey of the county for the purpose of ascertaining its center. When this had been accomplished, a committee composed of William Mead, William Leftwich, William Trigg, James Buford, Henry Buford, and Charles Gwatkin was appointed to view a place on Bramlett's Road upon which to locate the courthouse and other public buildings. This committee reported to the court at the July (1782) meeting that in their opinion the proper place for the purpose above mentioned was in a tract of 100 acres of land belonging to William Downey and Joseph Fuqua, which these men were willing to donate to the county. The report was adopted, and James Buford, Gent., was appointed to let the contract for the Courthouse, prison and stocks. The Courthouse was to be 20x30 feet, with a partition across; 12 feet pitch, with a chimney of thick stone or dirt. The floors were to be rough laid, and the house covered with pegged shingles. No doubt the logs were cut upon the ground, since the spot selected was in a grove of oak timber.

Court was held in the new building August 25, 1782.

A plan for the town, embracing the 100 acres, was laid out at once, and a plat made. In October, 1782, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an Act vesting the title to the said 100 acres in certain trustees for the benefit of the county and thereby establishing a town, to which the name Liberty was given.

Not much is known of the early history of Liberty. A plat of the prison bounds, laid off by William Callaway and recorded August 17, 1785, shows Main Street, Market Street, North Bridge Street, the "present Court House," the "New Court House Lott" and the "Spring." The "present Court House," marked on plat "P. C. House," was situated on the southeast corner of Main and Market Streets where the office of the Bedford Bulletin is today. The "New Co. House Lott" was diagonally across Main Street, and the same as that now occupied by the courthouse. The spring was immediately

LIBERTY, THE NEW COUNTY SEAT

north of this lot near the edge of the prison bounds—where the railroad is today.

In a few years the rude structure used as a courthouse was found to be inadequate to the county's needs and the records show that on September 24, 1787, the Court ordered that a new brick building be erected. William Leftwich, William Trigg, William Callaway, Jeremiah Pate, Thomas Lumpkin, and James Buford were appointed to superintend the brick work. This building was received by the court July 27, 1789, and the lot on which the old courthouse stood was ordered to be sold.

According to tradition this new building was so close to the street that the noise of conversation and passing vehicles was so annoying that in 1833 it was torn down and a new and larger Courthouse erected. The records show that provision was made for a temporary Courthouse and Clerk's office during the erection of this building, so it was evidently built upon the same site as its predecessor.

This Courthouse was a two-story brick building of colonial design, set back from the street about 30 feet. The ground floor was used as offices for the county officials and the court room occupied the second floor. Stone steps with iron railings led up to the portico, which was ornamented with large white pillars. Wings on either side of the main building were used for the Clerk's Office on the east and lawyers' offices on the west. This building served until 1930, not only as a temple of justice but frequently as a house of worship, and it was with profound regret on the part of many citizens of both town and county that it had to be razed to give place to the splendid courthouse that Bedford now enjoys.

For many years the oldest residence in the town was the building no longer standing in the rear of the home of the Cauthorns, on West Main Street. This was built by William Bramlett, Jr., a Baptist preacher and son of William Bramlett, Sr., one of the pioneers of this part of Virginia. After the death of Rev. Mr. Bramlett in 1779, the residence was sold by his heirs to James Callaway Steptoe, whose office, when clerk of the county, was built near the corner of the yard, on what is now Crenshaw Street.

The Masonic Lodge—Liberty Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 95—is the oldest organization in the town, having received its charter in 1813. Its first building, erected in 1828, still stands and is today the home of W. H. Wildman. The various denominations held religious services there before their churches were built, and it was also used as a school house, when no other was available. In 1895 the Lodge purchased the site of the old Modoc Hotel, which had been destroyed by fire many years before, and erected the handsome building which

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

it occupies today.

The following statistics of Liberty in 1830 have been copied from a newspaper clipping in possession of C. R. Hurt of the county:

"Liberty, P. V. and seat of justice, is situated on a branch of Otter River, 26 ms. S. W. from R. and 223 ms. from W. lat. 37ds. 17' long. 20 ds. 29' W. of N. C. The Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike runs through the town, which contains, besides the county buildings, 70 houses, two Baptist and one Free church; Masonic Hall, two taverns, five mercantile stores, one tobacco manufactory, two tanyards, three house carpenters, one wheelwright, and two turners.

"The mail arrives and departs fifteen times in a week. Liberty contains nine attorneys and four regular physicians; whole population 350."

Liberty was incorporated by Act of the General Assembly March 28, 1839, when boundaries were established and an election of a mayor and councilmen ordered.

All official records of the town were burned in 1926, when the market house, in which the Mayor's office was housed at that time, was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, Edward Pollock, in his Sketch of Liberty, published in 1887, gives the names of the mayors up to that time. He does not mention the councilmen. Mr. Pollock says:

"The earliest meeting of the Common Council whose minutes have been preserved was held July 2nd, 1840, on which date John A. Wharton was Mayor, and so remained until June 5th, 1849, when he was succeeded by Samuel Hoffman."

Successive mayors and the dates of their election follow:

Dr. John A. Otey, June 8, 1850

William L. Holt, October 23, 1853

Hugh White, May 9, 1854

O. P. Bell, July 25, 1855

John R. Steptoe, July 30, 1856

The minutes are missing from February 18, 1857, to November 27, 1860, when Dr. John A. Otey was again in office.

And now Rev. Joseph A. Graves, in his "History of the Bedford Light Artillery," furnishes a description of the town as follows:

"Liberty, in May, 1861, was a quiet and unpretentious town. The streets were paved with poor material and only for a short distance. Our orators and politicians were James F. Johnson, William Burwell, William L. Goggin and the Hon. John Goode. Our leading merchants were Alfred Bell, O. P. Bell, S. H. Hoffman and William Graves. The storhouses in which they did business were inconvenient wooden buildings, without any apparatus for heating them save in the counting room, into which a very few persons were al-

LIBERTY, THE NEW COUNTY SEAT

lowed to come; but they kept a full line of almost every kind of merchandise. There was only one drug store in the place and it did a very small business. There were no soda fountains, nor hardware stores, nor tobacco warehouses.

"Those worthy men, Micajah Davis, Col. J. B. Crenshaw and W. T. Campbell, would manufacture tobacco for a few months in the spring and summer, and in the winter they would visit the farms and buy the tobacco as it hung in the house at so much a hundred. As for the rest of the time, W. T. Campbell and Col. J. B. Crenshaw would spend most of it in the countingroom of William Graves, who did a large mercantile business at the corner of Main and Bridge streets, where R. B. Claytor later built a handsome brick storehouse. There were no livery stables in town. Our people owned but few carriages; the citizens walked to their places of business and no one rode out in the evening for health or pleasure.

"Prof. S. L. Dunton taught a female school near the railroad bridge, while Prof. R. D. Redus taught an academy for boys and young men in a building called Piedmont.

"Our butcher (and we had only one) would ride out in the morning and buy a small beef, drive it home and butcher it about nightfall on the lot of Col. Dan Aunspaugh, when next morning about four o'clock all who wanted beef would go there and purchase it, and the market house would be closed up by 6 a. m., to be opened no more until the butcher went again to the country and returned.

"We had no water works, no telephone, and no electric lights. When the moon did not shine we took our lanterns."

CHAPTER FIVE

Liberty—Bedford City—Bedford

To continue Mr. Pollock's account of the mayors of Liberty:

Another blank occurs from May 3, 1862, to October 23, 1866, due perhaps to the War Between the States. The minutes of the last mentioned date were signed "John A. Otey, Mayor."

Then in order are:

W. H. Leftwich, July 23, 1867
Dr. T. M. Bowyer, April 13, 1871
O. P. Bell, July, 1878
McLeod Kasey, July 1, 1880
Dr. C. A. Board, June 14, 1881
Dr. T. M. Bowyer, July 1, 1884
Dr. C. A. Board, January 12, 1886.

It was during these last administrations that Liberty began to rise from the ashes of the Bridge Street fire, which, on Sunday morning, October 12, 1884, had swept Bridge Street from Main Street to the railroad, with the exception of the building on the northeast corner of Bridge and Main and the one nearest the bridge. Up to that time the town had had no water supply other than springs and wells within the corporation, and, therefore, was helpless in this emergency.

As soon as the first shock of this disaster was over, the city fathers set about finding water that was available to the town. Springs were located on the south side of the Peaks of Otter, their waters brought together, the stream dammed, and the water piped to town, with sufficient fall to force it into a reservoir on top of a hill just outside the corporation. As the town has grown it has been necessary, from time to time, to include other springs along the mountains east of the Peaks. A modern filtration plant and two large reservoirs have been erected on Reservoir Hill, and today Bedford enjoys as good freestone water as can be found anywhere, but not in sufficient quantity as yet for the growth of the town. (This will be remedied shortly by the town's \$750,000 water supply program.)

Dr. Board held the office of mayor until 1890, the year of the "boom," when, over the protest of many of the older and more conservative citizens, the name of the town was changed, for advertis-

LIBERTY – BEDFORD CITY – BEDFORD

ing purposes, from Liberty to Bedford City. This protest was voiced in the following poem:

LIBERTY (No change of name)

As “girt with rugged mountains
The fair lake Constance lies”
Reflecting in her bosom
The azure of the skies,

So 'mid her blooming valleys
And hills of living green,
Old Bedford's classic village,
Fair Liberty is seen.

No storms have wrecked her beauty,
No thunders shook her spires,
No heel of tyrant dared obtrude
To quench her altar fires.

Fair as a polished jewel
In nature's emerald crown
She sits enthroned, reflecting
The light of old renown.

Her birth was one with freedom,
Brave patriots were her sons,
And in her ears have sounded
Old Revolution guns.

Heroes were at her christening,
And, as the burning flame
Of Henry's matchless eloquence
With power resistless came,

Her sponsors caught the music
Of one word—proud and free,
And kindling with its ardor
Baptized her “Liberty.”

The grand old Peaks of Otter
Like sentinels have thrown

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Their broad protecting shadows
Allegiance to own.

No stain rests on her banner
No blot upon her fame—
Immortal grandeur lights her crest
And gilds her glorious name.

Out then with desecration—
Who dares to talk of change?
What name could be more fitting
In all our Saxon range?

Down, down with the suggestion,
No change shall ever be,
Old Bedford's classic town should own
No name save "Liberty."

—Cornelia J. M. Jordan.

This land boom swept all this part of Virginia, and during its short duration real estate offices were as numerous on the streets as garages and filling stations are today. The showiest horses and vehicles that could be obtained were used to carry the prospective buyers out to see the newly laid off parks, drives, and mansion sites. The whole town was in a fever of excitement. Dr. Board was now advanced in years and it was deemed advisable to have a younger and more progressive man at the head of affairs of what promised (?) to be a city overnight, and Picton L. Saunders, a prominent attorney, was elected. Land companies had been organized, and vacant lands, both in the town and the suburbs, had been purchased and cut up into streets and city lots; residences had sprung up in many sections, and now a *handsome* hotel was erected of brown stone and shingles at a cost of \$100,000, where the Elks National Home stands today, and by request of the town, a railroad station of the same stone was erected nearby, a mile from the business section.

And then! When the promoters and speculators began to count their profits, they looked at each other, shook their heads, and sighed. Nobody had made anything, the name of the town had been discarded, valuable farm lands had been cut up into streets and were already washing into gullies, both banks had failed, many people were hopelessly in debt, and general chaos prevailed. It was many years before the town recovered from this debacle.

Following Mr. Saunders as mayor came J. Lawrence Campbell

LIBERTY – BEDFORD CITY – BEDFORD

(1895), afterward Judge of the Circuit Court; Hunter Miller (1904), later senator from this district; Paul Bargamin (1906); Nelson Sale (1910); A. J. Cauthorn (1916); H. B. Jordan (1920); Paul Bargamin (1924); J. Callaway Brown (1926); J. W. Gillaspie (1930), W. L. Lyle (1944), Mr. Gillaspie again (1948), Dr. E. L. Johnson (1950) and E. L. Carlyle (1952).

Though tobacco had always been the chief money crop cultivated in this and surrounding counties, no warehouse for the sale of the leaf was opened in Liberty until after the War Between the States. The first of these was located near the railroad, east of the bridge, and was conducted by William Holt, later by Curtis and Booth. Still later a warehouse was built on the northeast corner of Bridge and Washington Streets. The first proprietors of this were Thomas A. Jeter and Major David M. Newsom. After the death of Mr. Jeter in 1885 John M. Wright was added to the firm. This house was torn away in 1911 to make way for the building of the Parker-Ayres Hardware Company.

The first bank of Liberty was known as The Bedford Savings Bank and John A. Wharton was its cashier. Its contemporary for a brief period, was the Citizens Savings Bank, of which Micajah Davis was cashier. Both of these were discontinued because of the war.

After the cessation of hostilities, the Lynchburg Insurance and Banking Company established a bank here, which, in turn, was succeeded by the Liberty Savings Bank, of which Col. William Graves was president and C. W. Wharton cashier. Contemporary with this was the Bank of Bedford, with O. P. Bell as president and Thomas J. Mathews, cashier. The latter was succeeded by the First National Bank, with Thomas D. Berry as president, and Charles L. Mosby cashier. The boom of 1890 and the money panic which followed were more than the banks could withstand, and they closed their doors at the same hour of the same day.

In 1896 Lynchburg again came to the rescue of Bedford and established a branch of the Lynchburg Trust and Savings Bank here, with Allen Cucullu as cashier. In 1901 the Peoples Bank was organized with L. R. Gills as president and W. A. Fitzpatrick cashier. In 1914 the Citizens National Bank was established with S. S. Lambeth, Jr., president, and R. E. White, cashier. In 1930 the Lynchburg Trust and Savings Bank was purchased by the newly organized Bedford Trust and Savings Bank, of which J. J. Scott was president and G. W. Bond cashier. This, in turn, was bought in 1934 by the Peoples Bank which now had become a national bank.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

About 1887 Bedford Avenue was opened from the railroad bridge through the properties of I. N. Clark, who lived in the residence nearest the bridge and operated a wheelwright shop where the park is today, L. D. Havmond, a lawyer, who lived in the residence now the home of R. E. White, and Avenel, the home of the Burwells. For some now unaccountable reason it was called "Dude Avenue." During the boom this street was extended to the new railroad station, situated diagonally across from the southwest corner of the campus of Randolph Macon Academy. In the construction of the street fills were made of loose earth with no hard surface, and in mid-winter became almost impassable. It was not unusual for the city "hacks," which plied between the town and station, to sink their wheels in the mud up to the axles. This condition prevailed until 1907, when the N. W. Railway laid a double track through this section of the state. The station was then moved to its present location and the street west of it abandoned as a main thoroughfare.

Main and Bridge Streets in the center of the town had been previously paved with vitrified brick and now this paving was extended on Bedford Avenue to the station. Since that time asphalt and macadam have been employed in hard-surfacing the other streets of the town, the old flag stones and boards have been removed from the sidewalks, and miles of splendid concrete walks have taken their places.

The first tavern in Liberty, to bear a name as such, was Eagle Tavern, which stood on the site of the present Masonic building. Its proprietor was John Otey, captain in the Revolutionary army, whose home was on the southeast corner of Market and Franklin Streets, then a part of his farm. He and many of his family sleep in the family burying ground on Otey Street.

Another tavern which figured conspicuously in the early history of the town was Bell's. This was finally torn away and the present hotel, first known as the "Bedford House," was built upon the site. This hotel seems to have had a checkered career throughout its existence, having changed owners many times, and operators even more frequently. The Bedford Sentinel of July 25, 1856, carried an advertisement by James F. Johnson, trustee, which was, in part, as follows: "This is the most valuable tavern property in the up-country. The hotel has been recently built and is a large and convenient brick tenement, capable of accommodating comfortably a good many guests. The kitchen, stables and other out-houses are convenient and spacious. The hotel has a large custom and is one of the best, out of a city, in the state."

After the coming of the railroad another hotel was built just

LIBERTY -- BEDFORD CITY -- BEDFORD

east of the bridge and north of the tracks. This was first called "The Liberty House," and its beautiful lawns and handsome trees attracted many summer visitors. The name was later changed to "Beechenbrook," and in after years the building was converted into an apartment house, and finally portions of it were moved away, leaving only a small residence.

Until 1890 the town had no means of illumination other than kerosene lamps. These lamps, each holding one night's supply of oil, were erected upon tall posts along the sidewalks. "Nick" Derbin, sergeant, policeman and general utility man, would start out late in the afternoon, carrying a short ladder, and begin lighting the lamps; then early next morning he would begin extinguishing them, cleaning and refilling them as he went, and by the time this was done it was lighting time again.

In 1890 George L. Colgate, one of the promoters of the boom, built a small steam electric plant on Depot Street, where the substation is today, and sold to the town current for eighteen street lights. These were burned until midnight on dark nights, and not at all when the moon shone. Mr. Colgate built the residence later owned by Mrs. George Miles and died there in 1892. The town then purchased the plant and enlarged it from time to time until about 1910, when T. W. Richardson, editor of the Bedford Bulletin, called the attention of the Board of Trade to the feasibility of establishing a hydro-electric plant on James River with which to furnish Bedford with current for both illumination and power. Interest in the project was created at once, with the result that the necessary property was acquired, a bond issue floated and the plant erected. One by one the industries discarded their steam engines and installed electric motors, until today practically all of them are using electric power. In 1927, a contract was made with the Appalachian Power Company to furnish them the town's surplus current for a small remuneration, and, in return, receive from them such current as might be needed when the town's plant might be temporarily out of commission. With this cooperation, Bedford is assured of continuous current, and many household appliances—stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, etc.—have been installed during the last few years.

Bedford also boasts a "white way," which is not only an attraction and a convenience, but an evidence of the pride and public spirit of its people.

Since 1933, the citizens of the town have paid no municipal real estate taxes, the revenue from the water and electric current be-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

ing sufficient to take care of the running expenses, and to pay off all bonds as they become due.

With the ending of World War II and the return of many of Bedford's more progressive young men, the town has entered an era of expansion not hitherto experienced. The Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in having many new industries locate here, which means the necessity for more residences, more water, more electric current, better streets, etc. A city manager has been employed, and the people generally are looking forward to greater prosperity.

CHAPTER SIX

The Villages of Bedford County

BIG ISLAND

Big Island, a village of about 500 people, is situated on the north side of the county on the James River and was named for the island in the river at that place, which is a mile and a quarter long and is said to be the largest in the entire course of the James River. The population is made up largely of employes of the big plant of the National Container Corporation, formerly the Bedford Pulp and Paper Company.

Big Island has a bank, an accredited high school, two churches, a hotel, stores, filling stations, garages, and is a thriving village. It is about 18 miles northwest of Lynchburg on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, and also on the Lee-Jackson Highway leading from Lynchburg to Natural Bridge.

BOONSBORO

Boonsboro, also on the Lee-Jackson Highway, is just west of Lynchburg and was named for Daniel Boone, who visited his friend, Richard Callaway, in this vicinity before their adventurous trip to Kentucky. Their many encounters with the Indians have been told over and over again in the history of the frontier.

Boonsboro has an accredited high school, stores, garages, etc., and while it has never been larger than it is today, in its vicinity have lived many of Bedford's best known families, Cobbs, Meriwether, Davies, Rucker and others.

FOREST

Following the Norfolk and Western Railway west from Lynchburg, the first village in Bedford County is Forest. It had its beginning in the late fifties when the Virginia and Tennessee railroad (now the N. & W.) was built through the county, and was named for "Poplar Forest," the nearby home of Thomas Jefferson.

Forest is in the most historical section of the county. Near here lived Matthew Talbot, at whose house the first county court was held; Joshua Early, whose son, John Early, became a bishop of the Methodist Church; "Jemmy" Steptoe, clerk of Bedford County 54 years; William Callaway, who donated the land for New London Towne; and

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

not far away were born Nicholas Hammer Cobbs, first Bishop of Alabama, and John Goode, "The grand old man of Virginia." In later years the Radfords, Yanceys, Hutters, Nelsons, Lindsays, Moormans and others have lived near Forest.

GOODE

Continuing west along the railroad, Goode is the next village of importance. It, too, had its beginning with the coming of the railroad and was named for the family of the Hon. John Goode.

Goode is in the center of a fine farming district and is the shipping point of many tomato canneries in that section.

LOWRY

Next comes Lowry, situated about seven miles east of Bedford and named for Nelson Lowry, who donated the land for the railroad station. The Leftwiches, Bells, Byrnes, Markhams and others have been prominent families in this section throughout the years.

Miss Margaret Byrne tells the following story of Hunter's Raid through here during the War Between the States:

Her father, Lawrence Byrne, came to this county with Dunmeade, the contractor who laid the first track of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. He married here and settled on a plantation near Lowry.

When Hunter came through with his army on the way to Lynchburg, the thick pines on Mr. Byrne's estate concealed many of his neighbors' horses, carriages, silver, meat and other valuables, and when he was driven back by General Jubal A. Early a group of Yankee calvarymen rode into Mr. Byrne's yard and were met by Mrs. Byrne. A young officer, lifting his cap, saluted her courteously and called her attention to a beautiful black mare he was leading. He explained that they were on a hasty retreat and, even though it grieved him to part with his favorite horse, he could not take it with him because it had become too lame to go on. He begged her to take the horse and keep it for her own, explained to her how to treat the lame foot, and then sorrowfully rode away. A cure was soon effected and the horse became the joy and pride of Mrs. Byrne.

Years after this, when William McKinley was a candidate for the presidency of the United States and his picture was being displayed everywhere, Mrs. Byrne recognized him as being the young officer who had consigned to her tender care his beautiful black mare.

Upon one occasion, after he became president, Mr. McKinley was passing through Lynchburg and his train was delayed there for an hour. He made a short address from the rear platform of his car in which he said he was glad to be able to pass through the city now and

THE VILLAGES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

to be greeted with smiles and cheers from its citizens, for he remembered another time when he made an attempt to get into Lynchburg and was greeted with shot and shell and chased back up the turnpike with bayonets and shouts.

THAXTON

The village of Thaxton, just six miles west of Bedford, was named for David Thaxton, who donated the land for the railroad and depot grounds. It was first called "Thaxton's Switch," or "The Switch," for here the trains met and passed. The passenger trains were then called "mail trains" and were known as "up train" (westbound) and "down train" (eastbound). A train order read thus: "The up-train will meet the down-train at Thaxton's Switch; the up-train will take the switch."

An early postmaster here was a Mr. Pratt, and Major Cornelius Pate was a prominent merchant. The chief industry was a tobacco factory owned and operated by David Thaxton. This building still stands on the corner of the old road and the new highway, and is now used as a storehouse.

The residence of David Thaxton, now called "Ivy Pillars," a handsome brick building just north of the railroad, together with much of the original acreage, is now the home of Mrs. W. O. McCabe and her two sons, widow and sons of the late beloved physician of all this part of the county.

An outstanding incident in the history of Thaxton is the terrible wreck which occurred here in 1889. A cloudburst washed out the railroad fill just east of the station, leaving the rails and cross ties suspended, and apparently intact. At midnight an east bound passenger train plunged into this opening, wrecking the train and killing and injuring many of its passengers.

MONTVALE

Montvale, thirteen miles west of Bedford, is in another historical part of the county, and is ideally situated in a large basin, surrounded on three sides by spurs of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was originally named Bufordsville, for Captain Paschal Buford, of "Locust Level," who gave land for the railroad and depot, but during the landboom of 1890 the name was changed to Montvale. An Indian mound is on the south bank of Goose Creek near this village and a colonial fort once stood near by.

Montvale has a population of 250 people and many of Bedford's fine old families have lived in this section of the county, among them the Bufords, Lucks, Hatchers, Oteys, Ewings and others.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

VILLAMONT

Villament, three miles west of Montvale, is the old Buford's Gap of stage coach days, and was originally on an Indian trail through the mountains. In 1801 James Ripley petitioned the General Assembly for the right to sell part of his land for the building of a town to be called Peel Brook. The land was laid out in lots, but the town did not materialize. It was to be called Peel Brook in honor of one Dr. Peel, who, tradition says, came to this country from England, allegedly because he had slandered the king, and, finding his way into Virginia, settled in Bedford County. The house, built of logs and occupied by Dr. Peel, has just recently (1938) been torn down.

Many years later iron was discovered just over the mountain and the valley again received a name, this time, Ironville." It now gave promise of becoming a health resort because of its pure water and fresh mountain air, and a sanatorium for tubercular patients was built and numerous residences sprang up. After a few years mining was discontinued because of the inferior quality of the ore and the village had another setback.

About 45 years ago some real estate men became interested in the possibilities of the valley and its mountainsides as suitable locations for those in search of health and again its name was changed, now to poetic "Villamont." It was advertised throughout the country with stories and photographs setting forth its rejuvenating elements and healthful attractions, and in course of time families began to come in from everywhere—from Canada, from many of the United States, and some from over seas. With few exceptions they have remained and most of them have built residences back from the highway. In 1923 a community chapel was erected in which all worship together in harmony and contentment, regardless of creed. It is a cultured, cosmopolitan community, and a great asset to the county.

CHAMBLISSIONG

Chamblissburg, once a village of some importance, but now only a store, a church, a Masonic hall and a few residences, was first a postoffice in the store of William Chambliss, half way between Liberty and Big Lick (now Roanoke) on the Dickerson Mill road. It was established in 1827 with Elias James as postmaster. Mr. Chambliss, who was the first merchant at this place, had his store in an old log building known as the "factory." When this was torn down many years ago, in it was found a half pound stone weight which no doubt had been used to weigh commodities in this crude mercantile establishment.

The store house, built later on the north side of the

THE VILLAGES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

road and for nearly a century the community center, was owned at one time by Richard A. Lee, father of "Jack" Lee, the noted criminal lawyer, of Lynchburg, who was born at Chamblissburg. In 1829 Mr. Lee sold this property to John F. Thaxton, who ran a store here until his death in 1891, when John E. Murrell acquired the property and continued the business for many years.

Tradition says that in the long ago a stranger, passing through the village and noting the gray soil, remarked that it looked too poor to sprout peas. From this casual remark it was called "Peatown," a name then more commonly used in the neighborhood than that of the post office.

In 1910 the post office was discontinued and the residents of the vicinity placed on a Stewartsville route. Here have lived the Wrights, perhaps the oldest family in all this part of the county, the Mayses, Pates, Newsoms, Pendletons, Johnsons, McManaways, Nimmoes, Huddlestones, Franklins, Feathers and many others.

CROSS ROADS—STEWARTSVILLE

Cross Roads, four miles west of Chamblissburg, took its name from the intersection of a north to south road with the main thoroughfare from Liberty to Big Lick. The post office was established in 1839 with Isaac James, Jr., as postmaster.

In 1842 the post office was placed in the store of Samuel Stewart and the name changed to Stewartsville.

In this community have lived the families of James, Johnston, Jordan, Wright, Capt. Thomas Buford, his son, John Buford, and his descendants, the Dearings, Burkholders, Wheelers, Spradlins, Dickersons and others.

HARDY

According to the county records, Robert Hardy purchased of John Bratcher in 1803 five hundred eighty-two acres of land in the big bend of Staunton River, where the station and village of Hardy are now located. This land he laid off in lots for the establishment of a town, and in 1818 he sold a number of them to different people, the deeds to which describe them as being in the town of Hardyville. Mr. Hardy died in 1830, and after his death a warehouse was built close to the river, but the boat trade which was to build up the town failed to materialize and the lots went back into farm land.

The Virginian Railway crosses the road from Roanoke to Franklin County near Hardy's Ford and this gave the name to the railroad station.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MONETA

Moneta, a thriving village of 400 inhabitants on the south side of the county, dates its existence from 1880, when John A. Thaxton operated a country store and postoffice at that place. It grew slowly until 1908 when the Virginian Railway was completed through the village and the name Moneta given to it.

Since that time a state highway, Route 122, has been built from Big Island, through Bedford and Moneta to Rocky Mount, in Franklin County. This, together with the railroad, affords easy outlet in all directions, and the village has grown steadily. It today (1949) has many successful business establishments, a splendid high school, the post office from which rural routes serve a large area, and many modern residences. It is also the center of an extensive community of prosperous farmers, canners, dairymen, and others.

Old families of this section are Morgan, Robertson, Dickerson, Johnson, Moulton, Burroughs, Saunders, Reece, Goggin, Rucker, Parker, and others.

HUDDLESTON

Farther east on the Virginian Railway is Huddleston, named for Henry Huddleston Rogers, who financed the building of this railway from Deepwater, West Virginia, to Norfolk, Virginia. The materials for the building of this road were hauled from Bedford to Huddleston in wagons pulled by mules. The first engine to pass over the road had only one box-car behind it, in which were only planks for seats. The home of the Goggin ancestors of Mark Twain was not far away.

Huddleston is in the center of one of the best farming sections of the county. Its fertile soil is suitable for growing bright tobacco, dark-cured tobacco, corn, wheat, hay, tomatoes, potatoes, and excellent garden truck. A large cannery takes care of the big yield of tomatoes and employs around 175 men and women during the rush season of July and August.

Dairying has in recent years become the leading industry. Whole milk is principally sold, but some cream is marketed also. Another wealth of the community is its large forests, which are sawed and sold as lumber, and also shipped to many markets as pulp wood.

The village has a bank, stores, garages, and a modern high school to which eight bus loads of children are brought every day. Many modern residences are scattered in the village and community.

Early families in this section are Updikes, Ashwell, Turner, Martin and others.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The French and Indian Wars

Bedford County came into existence during the troubled era of the French and Indian Wars, and it was necessary from the beginning to have militia for self protection as well as to guard the frontiers from invasion by the Indians. The rosters of those times show that this territory was by no means uninhabited when it became a county. In 1758, just four years after its formation, there were 300 men of military age enrolled for service.

Wars with the Indians had been going on ever since the white man set foot on Virginia soil. The Indians had been repeatedly driven back, new treaties made and broken, and their hunting grounds restricted, until in 1768 the Ohio River was made the boundary line between the whites and the red men.

By proclamation of the king, soldiers of these wars were entitled to land bounty for their services, and in 1774 were notified to meet at the mouth of the Great Kanawha River to have their lands located.

Meanwhile several powerful tribes of Indians had formed themselves into the great "Northwestern Confederacy" and had placed at its head the famous Shawnee chieftain, Cornstalk. When the white men arrived to locate their lands, the Indians were already there, and determined to keep the valley of the Ohio for themselves. Under these circumstances conflict was inevitable, and terror reigned on the whole western frontier.

Governor Dunmore started for the scene of the war, but, being more pleasure-loving than military-minded, he wasted time on the way in luxurious homes of his friends.

Andrew Lewis, then County-Lieutenant of Botetourt County, becoming alarmed at the situation west of him, wrote the Governor a letter setting forth conditions in the Greenbrier Valley and the New River section. To this Dunmore replied immediately, requesting Lewis to raise all the men possible and march to the mouth of the Great Kanawha, where he would join him with an army. Lewis acted at once. He had seen service in the French and Indian wars, and near him lived others who were experienced in this same warfare, viz.: William Fleming and William Preston of Montgomery County, William Christian of Pulaski County, Thomas Buford of Bedford County, and his brother, Charles Lewis, of Augusta County. These, and perhaps

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

others, he called together on August 12 in a council of war, in which plans were made for all troops which were to serve under him to be at Camp Union (now Lewisburg, West Virginia) by August 30 and ready to march to the Ohio River.

Captain Buford rounded up a company of 51 riflemen and reported for duty at the time and place designated.

Gen. Lewis made up his forces into two regiments and one battalion—the Augusta County Regiment, commanded by Col. Charles Lewis; the Botetourt County Regiment, commanded by Col. William Fleming, and the Fincastle County Battalion, commanded by Col. William Preston. Captain Buford's company was assigned to the Botetourt regiment.

From Camp Union Gen. Lewis' forces marched to the mouth of the Great Kanawha, and on October 10, 1774, the battle of Point Pleasant took place, resulting in the defeat and retreat of the Indians. Captain Buford was mortally wounded and died that night. He was buried on the battlefield.

The battle of Point Pleasant broke the power of the Indians and convinced them that the white man had become master of this continent. By some historians it has been called the last battle of the Colonial wars with the Indians; by others it has been called the first battle of the Revolutionary war. No matter how it is known, Bedford will be forever proud that her little band of riflemen fought in this battle for the safety of their firesides, for the protection of their families, for the rule of law, and for those ideals of right and justice which have inspired the best of every generation to their noblest efforts.

On October 10, 1931, the 157th anniversary of the battle of Point Pleasant, a bronze tablet, bearing the names of Capt. Buford's company, was unveiled by the Peaks of Otter Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on the courthouse green in Bedford. This tablet had been placed upon a large boulder brought down from the Peaks of Otter, a mammoth undertaking, but accomplished by the county road force, of which J. D. Witt was superintendent. Music for the unveiling exercises was furnished by the Bedford Firemen's Band and Hon. Landon C. Bell, of Columbus, Ohio, was guest speaker. Other participants in the program were descendants of members of Capt. Buford's company. The subject of Mr. Bell's splendid address was "The Battle of Point Pleasant."

The roster of Captain Thomas Buford's company follows:

Thomas Buford, captain; Thomas Dooley, lieutenant; Jonathan Cundiff, ensign; Nicholas Meade, sergeant; William Kennedy, sergeant; Thomas Flipping, sergeant; John Fields, sergeant.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS

PRIVATES: James Ard, James Boyd, Robert Boyd, John Bozel, William Bryant, Joseph Bunch, John Campbell, William Campbell, John Carter, John Cook, William Cook, Nathaniel Cooper, James Dale, William Deal, Samuel Davis, Jacob Dooley, Robert Ewing, Augustine Hackworth, William Hackworth, Thomas Hall, Thomas Hambrick, William Hambrick, Robert Hill, William Scarboro James.

Gerrit Kelley, Zachariah Kennot, William Kerr, Adam Lin, James McBryde, Absalom McClanahan, William McColister, John McGahlen, William Overstreet, Thomas Owen, John Read, John Roberts, William Scarbara, Francis Seed, Abraham Sharp, Thomas Stephens, Uriah Squires, —Waugh, John Welch, Joseph White, John Wood.

Below are extracts from the county records, giving the few meager facts now obtainable of those listed as officers of the company:

THOMAS BUFORD, CAPTAIN

Thomas Buford owned land on both sides of Goose creek in the vicinity of Montvale, and on Bore Auger creek in the western part of the county. In 1754 and 1755 he served as sergeant under General Braddock, in 1756 as lieutenant under Colonel Washington, and in 1758 and 1759 as lieutenant under Colonel Byrd, and in his lifetime received no satisfaction in land for his services. His will, made in August, 1774, and proved the following November, mentions wife, Ann (who was Ann Watts); sons, John and William; and daughter, Nancy. His inventory and appraisement were recorded January 23, 1775. The division of his estate, October 23, 1797, which, according to the terms of his will, did not take place until after the death of his wife, mentions four lots of land on Bore Auger creek—1433 acres in all—and his three children, John, William and Nancy, now the wife of Martin Wale (Wales).

THOMAS DOOLEY, LIEUTENANT

Thomas Dooley's first purchase of land in Bedford County was in 1760, when he acquired 336 acres on the north side of the south branch of Otter River. He died in 1778. His will, made August 20, 1774; proved June 22, 1778; mentions his wife, Rebecca; sons, Stephen, Henry, John, Obediah; daughters, Jemima, Rachel, Martha, Keziah, and Katey. A codicil added to the will October 23, 1775, mentions his youngest son, Ephraim.

JONATHAN CUNDIFF, SERGEANT

Jonathan Cundiff's land, bought of William Callaway in 1770, lay on the north fork of Stony Fork of Goose creek. He married Mary

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Squires. His inventory, recorded March 27, 1775, was ordered at the February court, at which time Mary Cundiff qualified as administratrix.

NICHOLAS MEAD, SERGEANT

Nicholas Mead was the son of William and Ann Haile Mead. He married Mrs. Mary Jane Bates, and they lived and died near what is now Lowry, in Bedford County. His father moved, with most of his family, to Georgia in 1785.

WILLIAM KENNEDY, SERGEANT

William Kennedy bought land in 1775 on Wolf creek, beginning at Buford's corner maple, touching Haynes' line, etc. He died before 1791.

JOHN FIELD, SERGEANT

John Field's will, made April 15, 1778, mentions wife, Sarah, and sons, John and Thomas. No land mentioned.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Revolutionary War

Bedford County was far removed from the seat of the Revolutionary War, but she furnished her quota of men, ammunition, arms and food supplies.

Although tradition says that 400 Bedford soldiers fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, they have never been identified. No roster of those who went to war from Bedford County was ever compiled until about 1921, when the Bedford County Pageant Committee, heretofore mentioned, undertook to list as many as could be located at that late day. Appointments by the Court of officers of the county militia were found in the Order Books, but no privates were mentioned. Quite a number were found in Eckenrode's "Virginia Soldiers in the Revolutionary War," and some were gotten from the War Department and Pension Bureau in Washington, D. C.

These lists were published in 1930 in "Our Kin," the history and genealogy of many of the old and prominent families of Bedford County, written by Mary Denham Ackerly (now Mrs. G. Harris Field) and Lula Eastman Jeter Parker (author of this history).

(Following are the names of members of the Bedford County Militia in the Revolution (officers, no privates), taken from the Order Book, 1774-1782, and published in "Our Kin":)

James Adams, Captain, James Adams, 2nd Lieut., Robert Alexander, Captain, Jacob Anderson, 2nd. Lieut., Joseph Anthony, 2nd. Lieut., Benjamin Arthur, Captain, Jonas Baldwin, Adam Beard, David Beard, Captain, Samuel Beard, Captain, John Biggs, Barnabas Boline, James Boyd, William Bryan, Ensign, William Bryant, Ensign, Henry Buford, Captain, James Buford, Captain, James Bullock, Captain, Josiah Bullock, Captain, Harry Burnley, Ensign, Henry Burnley, 1st Lieut., Zachariah Burnley, Captain, James Burns, 2nd Lieut., Alexander Butler, 1st Lieut., Benjamin Butterworth, Lieut., Charles Callaway, Captain, Chesley Dudley Callaway, 1st Lieut., James Callaway, County Lieut., James Callaway, Jr., Captain, John Callaway, Major, Richard Callaway, Colonel, William Callaway, Lieut.-Colonel, John Campbell, Ensign, Thomas Charter, Captain, Jace Cheatwood, Ensign, Joel Cheatwood, Ensign, John Chiles, Captain, Micajah Clark, Ensign, Robert Clark, Captain, —— Clayton, En-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

sign, John Claytor, Captain, Charles Cobb, Captain, Edward Cobb, 2nd Lieut., Jesse Cobb, Ensign, Charlton Coggett, Captain, Henry Davis, 1st Lieut., Joseph Davis, 2nd Lieut., Thomas DeMoss, 1st Lieut, ——Devine, John Divers, 1st Lieut.

George Dooley, 1st Lieut, Jacob Early, Captain, Jacobus Early, 1st Lieut., Jeremiah Early, Colonel, Thomas Early, Henry Edison, Ensign, William Ewing, 1st Lieut., Frances Farley, Ensign, Edmund Franklin, Ensign, Owen Franklin, Ensign, Daniel French, Ensign, Moses Fuqua, 2nd Lieut., Hugh Garvin, Daniel Gilbert, 2nd Lieut., John W. Gilbert, Captain, Preston Gilbert, Lieut., Samuel Gilbert, 1st Lieut., Zachariah Gilliam, 2nd Lieut., Charles Glass, William Going, Stephen Goggin, 1st Lieut., Ansel Goodman, ——Goodman, James Graham, James Green, 2nd Lieut., James Greer, 1st Lieut., Benjamin Griffith, Ensign, Charles Gwatkin, Captain, Richard Haile, Ensign, Parmenas Haynes, Captain, Thomas Haythe, 1st Lieut., William Heath, Substitute for Francis Luck, John Helm, 2nd Lieut., Thomas Helm, William Henderson, Gent., Ensign, William Hudnall, 1st Lieut., John Hunter, Ensign, Jacob Hutt, Moses Hurte, Ensign, Harry Innes, Ensign, Abraham Irving, 1st Lieut, Andrew Irving, 1st Lieut.

John Irvine, 2nd Lieut., Robert Irvine, 1st Lieut., William James, 1st Lieut., Henry Jeter, 1st Lieut., Thomas Johnson, Ensign, Christopher Johnson, Thomas Jones, Ensign, William Jones, 1st Lieut., William Jordan, Captain, Michael Kelley, ——Kelly, Matthew King, Substitute for James Mays, Henry Lahorn, Uriah Leftwich, Ensign, William Leister, Benjamin Logan, Captain, Thomas Logwood, Captain, Anselem Lynch, 1st Lieut., Charles Lynch, Esq. Colonel, David Martin, 2nd Lieut., William Mead, Major, Hugh McIlory, 1st Lieut., William McNininy, Thomas McReynolds, Captain, Simon Miller, Jr., Ensign, Daniel Mitchell, Ensign, Jacob Moon, Jr., Ensign, Jacob Moore, 2nd Lieut., Arthur Moseley, 2nd Lieut., Thomas Murray, Lieut., Thomas Nance, Ensign, Cornelius Newell, 2nd Lieut., Cornelius Noell, 2nd Lieut., John Otey, Captain, ——Parrin, Daniel Parrow, Ensign, Daniel Parsons, Ensign, ——Paramanas, 1st Lieut., Anthony Pate, Captain, Jesse Pate, Matthew Pate, 1st Lieut.

Jeremiah Pate, Captain, Thomas Pate, Ensign, John F. Patrick, Ensign, Nathaniel Patterson, Lieut., Henry Piles, John Phelps, 1st Lieut., Joseph Poindexter, Captain, ——Prewitt, Bowen Price, Captain, Brown Price, Captain, John Quarles, Colonel, Bailey Rames, Isaac Rentfree, 1st Lieut., William Rentfree, Captain, John Rentfro, Captain, Mark Rentfro, Ensign, Jonathan Richeson, Captain, Stephen Robinson, Thomas Rose, Benjamin Ruff, Jesse Run-

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

nels, James Russell, 2nd Lieut., John Runyon, John Slaughter, Ensign, James Smith, Henry Smith, Jonathan Smith, 2nd Lieut, Henry Snow, John Starkey, Ensign, Alexander Steel, 1st Lieut., Joseph Stith, Ensign, Charles Suter, Haile Talbot, Captain, Williamston Talbot, John Torbert, Captain, Edmund Tate, 2nd Lieut., Jesse Tate, 1st Lieut., Nathaniel Tate, Captain, Shelton Taylor, 1st Lieut., Harry Terrell, Major, Peter Terrell, Captain, John Terry, William Terry, Captain, William Thornhill, Ensign, John Trigg, Captain, William Trigg, Lieut.-Colonel, George Turnbull, 1st Lieut., William Vardiman, 1st Lieut., Richard Walden, Ensign, Peter Ward, Charles Watkins, Captain, Robert Watkins, Captain, Aaron Watts, Thomas Watts, Captain, William Watts, Isaac Webb, Captain, John Wilkerson, Captain, Peter Wood, 1st Lieut., Hinman Woosten, Hinman Wooten, Ensign, David Wright, Captain.

(Following are the names of the Bedford County soldiers in the Revolution, taken from Eckenrode's "List of Virginia Soldiers in the Revolution" and published in "Our Kin":)

Henry Adams, Robert Adams, Thomas Andrews, John Arthur, William Arthur, Phillip Bailey, Savage Bailey, Glover Baker, James Baldwin, Elisha Barton, David Blankenship, Abraham Blankenship, Henry Blankenship, Priestly Boley, Wright Bond, Henry Brown, Robert Brown, Sheldrake Brown, Thomas Brown, Alexander Bryant, Andrew Bryant, Henry Buford, William Caldwell, Joseph Callaway, ——Callaway, Colonel, Aaron Camfield, Captain, Anthony Campbell, William Campbell, John Carter, William Cowender, ——Childress, Robert Church, Jacob Citty, Adam Clement, Robert Cobb, ——Conner, Joseph Crews, William Crouch, Alexander Cummins, Captain, Isaac Cundiff, William Davenport, James Daverson, Samuel Davis, 1st Lieut., James Dixon, Thomas Dixon, Alexander Dobins, James Donoho, Robert Donoho, Stephen Doss, Samuel Ewing, John Ferris, Samuel Fielding.

Samuel Franklin, William Fraser, Thomas Frazer, Moses Greer, John Gibbs, Archer Gillman, Abraham Goff, Zachariah Goff, ——Goodman, George Goswell, Michael Graham, Jonathan Groom, Thomas Hackworth, William Hackworth, Isham Hall, Robert Hall, Edward Hancock, Samuel Hancock, Michael Haney, John Haynes, ——Hinson, ——Holly, John Holly, William Hudson, John Huddle, Joseph Himbrick, William Jackson, Charles Jones, Gray Jones, Stephen Jones, John Kennedy, Thomas Kerr, Herman King, Thomas Laine, Daniel Laine, Charles Lambert, George Lambert, Captain, William Lee, ——Leftwich, Captain, John Leftwich, Thomas Leftwich, Captain, ——Leister, John Littlepage, Philip Lockard, Henry Lowry, John Lowry, Thomas Lumpkin, Patrick Lynch, Thomas

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

McGrane, Jacob McGrady, Thomas McLaughlin, James McReynolds, John P. March, John Markham, Thomas Markham, Thomas Marshall, Robert Martin.

Benjamin Meador, Charles Melson, ----Merritt, Major, John Middleton, Benjamin Milam, William Milam, 1st Lieut., Jacob Miller, Thresswelers Miner, William Miner, John Mitchell, Samuel Mitchell, ----Moon, Captain, Robert Moore, James Moore, James Moseley, Charles Nelms, Nimrod Newman, Thomas Overstreet, Frederick Padgett, Aaron Powell, Thomas Pullen, James Quarles, John Quarles, Captain, Robert Read, ----Ready, Nathan Reid, Captain, Alexander Reynolds, Jesse Reynolds, Benjamin Rice, 1st Lieut., Benjamin Robertson, Ezekiel Rogers, Job Ross, William Ross, Peter Rouse (Negro), David Saunders, Jeremiah Scantling, Gross Scruggs, Captain, John Sharp, Jacob Shepherd, Garrett Simpkins, Reuben Slaughter, George Smith, John Spearman, John Steel, James Stiff, John Stovall, George Swain, Charles M. Talbot, Nathan Tanner, Adams Tate.

John Thomasson, William Tracy, I.----Triggs, Captain, Luke Valentine, John Vest, Edward Williams, John Williams, Samuel Wilson, Joshua Winn, Jesse Witt, Francis Wood, Joseph Wood, George Woodward, Joshua Worley, John Wright, Jacob Wade, Charles Walker, William J. Walker, Henry Ward, John Watkins, ----Watts, Aaron Watts, John Watts, Captain, Joseph White, John Wiggington.

(Following are the names of the Bedford County soldiers in the Revolution, picked up here and there in the records in the Congressional Library and published in "Our Kin":)

William Oliver, Isaac Gross, Jr., John Hudnall, Jonathan Dokin, John Gill, John Arthur, Sr., John McCormahoy, John Buford, Richard Austin.

Since the publication of "Our Kin" further search of the same sources as those from which the above rosters were drawn yielded the following additional names of Bedford County soldiers in the Revolution:

Richard Austin, Alexander Butler, Bartholomew Carroll, Joseph Davenport, John Davies, Chatten Doggett (captain), Thomas Ealy, John Edgar, Charles English, James Hambleton, Joseph Holt, Francis Hunter, James Hurt, Benjamin Johnson, David Kerr, 1st Lieutenant Augustine Leftwich, Callohill Mennis, Sr., James Mitchell, William Nichols, John Overstreet, James Parker, John Pervin, Bailey Reins, Moses Rentrae, Lewis B. Reynolds, John Smith, Shelton Taylor, Samuel Walke, Thomas Rose Walton, Jacob White, Roger Williams, Jesse Womack.

An arsenal and gun repair shops had been established at New Lon-

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

don and, even before war was declared, the county was preparing to manufacture gunpowder, as is shown by a resolution passed at the April, 1775, court:

"Whereas gunpowder is much wanted in this county and finding from experience that every article made use of in its manufacture (except sulphur of which we have not made trial) can be easily procured here, we will give a premium of 10 pounds current money to any person who will first produce to this committee 25 pounds of good sulphur with an authentic statement that the same was refined from materials in this county." Sulphur was evidently found, for much ammunition was furnished to Washington's armies.

The sheltered position of this region brought forth the following invitation, published in "The Virginia Gazette" of October 21, 1775:

"Whereas the alarming situation of the country at this time is such that Gentlemen of property and distinction have thought it necessary to move their families to safety; In tender consideration whereof—I do hereby declare that I think it the indispensable duty of every frontier county to be aiding and assisting all those who are exposed to imminent danger; I, therefore, as a private individual, being blessed with considerable quantity of land, do freely offer for the relief of such distressed families, 10,000 acres of land in the counties of Bedford and Pittsylvania, which will settle fifty families, on paying only the quit rents until times shall be changed.

William Meade, New London."

Whether Mr. Meade's example was followed by other large land-owners is not recorded, but certainly it was prompted by a patriotic spirit.

The county militia was drilled regularly at stated times and places and always attracted crowds of interested spectators. Drill grounds were located in different sections of the county; one in front of the arsenal, at New London; one at "Locust Hill," home of Maj. Thomas Logwood; another at "Locust Level," home of Capt. Henry Buford, and another on the plantation of David Saunders, west of New London. There were probably others.

Bedford's only real episode of the war was Tarleton's attempt to capture the arsenal at New London, but this resulted in failure, for news of his intentions had preceded him and he found nothing. However, the records show that many troops passed through Bedford. Wagons and teams were furnished them when needed, as were accommodations for men and horses. Beef, flour, brandy, etc., were supplied to the armies in large quantities, as shown by orders of the Court for payment of these public service claims immediately after the close of the war.

CHAPTER NINE

The War of 1812

A diligent search has revealed little with regard to Bedford's participation in the War of 1812. Very few of the soldiers who went from this county are known to their descendants, and only two published accounts of their activities have been found.

"The Virginia Argus" of Richmond, under date of August 24, 1812, carried this:

"The Citizens of Richmond had an opportunity on Tuesday of testifying their respect for some of those brave men who have sought the 'tented field' in the defense of their country. The Artillery Company of Bedford under Capt. Mark Anthony, part of the requisition of 500 men, reached this place on Saturday last on their way to Norfolk. They are volunteers in the service, part of that brave 'yeomenry, their country's pride.' They have cheerfully left their families and their farms obedient to her call. They are 66 in number, not your 'sun-shine soldiers or summer patriots,' but those sturdy and vigorous sons of the soil, whom no dangers can appeal, and no difficulties daunt.

"Citizens of Richmond invited them to a public dinner, which they politely accepted. Every arrangement was made which could do honor to their guests. The Executive, the Citizens, all the volunteer corps united together. The dinner was served up at Buchanan's Spring—there were scarcely less than 500 who sat down to it. The officers of the army of the United States were comprehended in the invitation. The lieutenant-governor (Mr. Mallory) presided at the board where the guests sat, supported by Dr. Foushee as vice-president. After the cloth was removed, many toasts were drunk.

"At an early hour in the evening, Capt. Anthony and his companions took up their line of march, and were escorted by the Citizens and Military throughout the city, below Rocketts, where they took a most affectionate leave of their guests."

Dr. Jeremiah Bell Jeter, the celebrated Baptist minister, in his "Recollections of a Long Life," gives a brief glimpse of the hardships of the Bedford men while in service, and the county's response to the calls for soldiers.

"This conflict (the war of 1812) commenced when I was ten years old . . . The men from Bedford suffered severely, not from the casualties of battle, but from the malaria of Eastern Virginia. At

THE WAR OF 1812

the commencement of the war, a noble volunteer company, commanded by Captain Mark Anthony, was marched to Norfolk, and at the close of its term of service, if my recollection is accurate, all except four were either dead or had suffered severely from disease. As the militia were drafted, and, from time to time, sent into the army, they were decimated by the fevers of the low country.

I resided about seven miles from the town of Liberty. In that place there was a small cannon, by which the patriotic citizens usually announced the victories of the American arms. One afternoon there was an unusual amount of firing. I was sent for by my grandfather, who resided near my home, and dispatched on a fleet horse to Liberty to learn the news On reaching the town I found the inhabitants frantic with delight at the intelligence that a peace had been established between the belligerent powers. I lost no time in returning to bear the tidings of peace, and had the honor to be the first to proclaim it along the road to my home On approaching my grandfather's, where many were on the tiptoe of expectancy to hear the news, I quickened my horse into full speed, crying at the top of my voice, "peace! peace! peace!" I had the privilege of proclaiming a sudden and unexpected deliverance from a great national calamity, of which the community around me was enduring its full share."

CHAPTER TEN

The War Between the States

From "Bedford County in the Civil War," written by R. A. Brock, then secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and published in Hardesty's Encyclopedia in 1884, the following is quoted:

"When the Richmond Convention passed the ordinance of secession April 17, 1861, Bedford County citizens enthusiastically ratified the action of their delegates to that body. The services of three Bedford companies were the first in the State tendered and accepted by Governor Letcher after the call for troops, and nine companies were in the field before the close of May, 1861, namely: The Rifle Grays, Captain Thomas Leftwich; Clay Dragoons, Captain William R. Terry; Old Dominion Rifles, Captain Thomas M. Bowyer; Bedford Light Artillery, Captain T. C. Jordan; C. R. Rifles, Captain William L. Wingfield; Dragoons, Captain James Wilson; Rifles, Captain McG. Kent; C. F. Rifles, Captain Aug. L. Minter; Bedford Rangers, Captain Radford. Of these some retained their name and organization through the war, others retained their organization, but were attached to regular regiments and became companies in them, while others were disbanded and the men re-enlisted in other organizations.

"The May term of the county court, about thirty justices present, without one dissenting vote appropriated \$50,000 for arming its militia, and another appropriation was made to purchase supplies of bacon, sugar, corn, flour and coffee for the destitute families of absent volunteers."

Schools were closed and two of the school buildings—Piedmont Institute and the "Campbell House"—were converted into hospitals. The women of the town took turns in caring for the sick and disabled soldiers and were daily seen wending their way to these hospitals with baskets of dainties prepared by their own hands. Outstanding among these nurses was Mrs. Mary Oney Fizer, wife of William Fizer and her work did not stop with the hospitals. Whenever it was learned that a trainload of Southern soldiers would pass through the town "Miss Mary" would help to spread the news and to solicit food for the soldiers, and when the train stopped at the station she would pass through the cars looking for any sick or disabled to whom she might minister. Her portrait, painted by a Northern soldier whom she nursed back to

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

health, hangs on the walls of the Bedford County Museum, as does also her honorable discharge as nurse from one of the hospitals.

Though Bedford is in the center of the state and soldiers were constantly passing back and forth through her territory, no battle was fought upon her soil, the most memorable episode of the war being Hunter's raid from the Peaks of Otter through the county to Lynchburg.

The destruction of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad was a cherished objective of the Federal government. It was a main artery of the Confederacy and if destroyed would prevent the shipment of supplies from this part of the state to the army at Richmond. As early as December, 1863, Gen. Averell's cavalry made a hazardous and partially successful attempt to destroy the railroad at Salem, when considerable stores, ten to fifteen miles of track and five bridges were demolished. The weather was so exceedingly cold that it was impossible to continue the raid at that time and no further attempt was made until June of the next year, when the forces of Averell and Crook were combined with those of Gen. David Hunter for a raid upon Lynchburg, where quantities of supplies for the Confederate army were stored. In Hunter's army were two men who afterwards became Presidents of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley.

The advance guard of these raiders entered Bedford County between the Peaks of Otter and were met by a little force of home guards and citizens. Thirty men were endeavoring to blockade a road against eight hundred, who had as many thousands behind them, and the men defending their homes were forced back with a loss of three wounded. The Federals camped at "Fancy Farm," pillaged the whole country round about, taking horses and provisions and wantonly destroying much valuable property. After two days of rest the majority of them, now between eight and ten thousand strong, took the Forest road to Lynchburg, but seven hundred of the cavalry went by way of Liberty.

When it became generally known in the county that Hunter and his army had reached "Fancy Farm," the people hid their horses, carriages, silver and other valuables in pine thickets, buried their money in the basements of their homes, or sewed it in belts which the women wore around their waists, and made preparation, as best they could, for the onslaught of the enemy. Just at sundown on the evening of June 17 the raiders entered the town in solid phalanx, a terrifying spectacle to the women, children and old men who had been left behind. These, with Negroes, made up the entire population. Defense was impossible. The Yankees pillaged the homes, destroying everything they could not carry off, and burned tobacco factories, saw

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

mills, the railroad depot and some nearby buildings in which supplies for the Confederate army were stored. Some of them camped for the night within the town and others camped on the outskirts.

The next morning, June 18, the Northern forces resumed their march toward Lynchburg, but they were never to reach their destination. Gen. Jubal A. Early, who with his army had just fought a battle at Cold Harbor, made a forced march to Lynchburg, met and routed the enemy on the suburbs of the city, and caused them to beat a hasty retreat. Gen. Early's men were so completely exhausted that they were compelled to rest before pursuing the Yankees, who were now entirely demoralized, but who took time in their flight to destroy the bridges over Big and Little Otter Rivers, to burn residences along the way and even to steal horses and kill fowls in the yards.

It is said that Gen. Early stopped for breakfast on the morning of the 19th at the home of Dr. T. N. Kabler at New London, and that Mrs. Kabler regaled him with such delicious wine of her own vintage that he temporarily lost sight of his determination to capture the enemy and allowed them to get such a start that it was impossible for his men to overtake them before they reached Liberty. A few skirmishes took place en route—one just west of New London, near the old Callaway cemetery, when the old men and boys of the neighborhood used the stone wall around the cemetery as a rampart behind which to fire upon the enemy. Five men were killed and thirteen wounded. One of those killed was not found until years afterwards, when his handsome gold watch was recovered and sent back to his family. Another skirmish took place about one mile east of town with Hunter's men lined up on the old muster ground north of the road and Early's men in the yard of Henry C. Lowry. Some of the minnie balls shot on this occasion were found in an old locust tree in the Lowry yard which was recently cut down. Gen. Early afterward wrote: "We overtook the Federals at Liberty just before night of the 19th. Drove them through that place after a brisk skirmish."

The enemy camped that night south of the road, near Moseley's Bridge, and early next morning were off in the direction of Salem.

When the war was over, those of Bedford's brave men who remained returned to their homes, where poverty and desolation reigned, and with the same courage that had sustained them throughout the conflict took up again the battle of life. Despite the daily struggle for existence, the strict economy necessary, and the changed conditions of domestic life, due to the freeing of the slaves, the women set about commemorating the deeds of the sacred dead, whose lives had been sacrificed for their homes and their country. The second Ladies Memorial Association in Virginia was formed in Liberty in 1866—the first was in Richmond. Mrs. John R. Steptoe was made president of the

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Bedford organization and Miss Sarah A. Bell secretary. The soldiers' cemetery was on Piedmont Hill, and here slept more than four hundred of the heroes, not all Bedford County men, but those who had died in the hospitals here. After infinite labor and zeal on the part of the ladies a simple monument, eloquent of devotion and enduring remembrance, was erected in 1875. The dedication ceremonies were simple, but impressive. The address was delivered by Hon. John Goode, and an exquisite poem, written for the occasion by Mrs. Mollie Moore Davis, wife of Maj. Thomas E. Davis, a native of Bedford, was read by the Hon. W. W. Berry. The mound at the base of the monument was covered with fragrant flowers in memory of the silent dead.

The monument bears this inscription:

OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD 1861-1865

Because there was no legal charter obtained to this cemetery it was deemed advisable in later years to remove the monument to Longwood Cemetery. All of the sacred dust of those who slept on Piedmont Hill was collected, sealed in a concrete vault and placed beneath the monument, which now stands upon one of the most beautiful spots in this cemetery.

Until 1902 the Ladies Memorial Association paid its annual tribute of eloquence, devotion and flowers to the Confederate heroes. Its presidents were Mrs. L. D. Hammond, Mrs. R. Kenna Campbell, Mrs. J. Lawrence Campbell and Mrs. Ellen Davis Gregory.

In 1902, upon the suggestion of Mrs. Nelson Sale, the Ladies Memorial Association was merged with the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the name WILLIAM R. TERRY chosen for the Bedford chapter. Mrs. Sale was elected president and served for several years. She was succeeded by Mrs. Samuel Griffin, a most enthusiastic and faithful worker. Other presidents have been Mrs. P. L. Saunders, Mrs. W. J. Phillips, Mrs. John S. Burks, Mrs. Hugh Miller and Mrs. T. O. Magann.

In 1906 it was decided by the Joseph E. Johnston Camp of Confederate Veterans and the William R. Terry Chapter, U. D. C., to erect a monument to the memory of the sons of Bedford who had sacrificed their lives in the "Lost Cause," who were among the first to enlist and the last to accept defeat. The following committees were selected: Major S. Griffin, commandant of the camp; Capt. Thomas S. West, adjutant; and William H. Mosby, Capt. N. C. Luck and John H. Huddleston. From the chapter were Mrs. Nannie Hutter Griffin, Mrs. Grace Tunstall Sale, Mrs. Mary Bell Claytor, Mrs. Myrtle Dinwiddie Phillips and Mrs. Ellen Davis Gregory.

Active steps were taken at once to secure the necessary funds for

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

the monument. The Board of Supervisors made an appropriation of \$1,500, and many private subscriptions were secured. Designs were submitted by a number of artists and that of M. J. Falvey, of Washington, was accepted.

On June 16, 1909, in the presence of a great crowd the beautiful granite shaft, with its appropriate inscriptions and designs of military significance, was unveiled with imposing ceremonies by Major William F. Graves, a veteran of the war. Col. Robert E. Lee, grandson of his illustrious namesake, was the orator of the occasion. The monument stands upon the west side of the Courthouse green.

In 1920 another interesting episode in the history of the chapter transpired. Major William F. Graves presented it with an old Confederate flag which originally belonged to the company of cavalry in which he was first enlisted. Its history is as follows:

The Bedford Southside Dragoons was a company of Bedford men organized on the south side of the county near Davis Mills before the beginning of the war, and later became Company F, Second Virginia Cavalry. A flag was made by the women of that section and presented to this company as it marched away to take its place in the Confederate Army.

In the vicissitudes of war the flag fell into the hands of the enemy and was given up for lost, but because it bore the original name of the company it was located 55 years later in Trenton, New Jersey, and through the efforts of Congressman J. P. Woods, of this district, it was returned to Adjutant General Jo Lane Stern, of Virginia, who in turn forwarded it to Major William F. Graves, one of fourteen or fifteen then surviving members of this company.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1920, Major Graves presented the flag to the William R. Terry Chapter, U. D. C., in a speech which recounted the service rendered by this company, which was among the first in the field and surrendered with Lee at Appomattox. Corporal Robert William Parker, whom Major Graves described as "a Christian gentleman" and who, he says, "had gone through the war from the beginning, was killed at Appomattox just as we approached the flag of truce. General Munford has stated that he was the last man to lose his life for the cause."

The flag has been mounted with glass on either side and is now one of the most interesting and valuable exhibits in the Bedford County Museum.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Churches of Bedford County

At the time of the formation of Bedford County there had been no separation of church and state and the whole of Virginia was under the Church of England. As a new county was formed a new parish was established also, not always embracing all of the same territory. Some counties contained more than one parish, and some parishes embraced more than one county. Bedford, as we have seen, was named for John Russell, fourth Duke of Bedford. The new parish was also named for him, and called Russell Parish, and, in this instance, was co-existent with the county.

The parish vestry consisted of twelve of the most prominent and substantial men in the parish and was first appointed by the court. Afterward it became a self-perpetuating body, new members being chosen by the older ones. The first vestry of Russell Parish was appointed May 24, 1755, and was composed of William Callaway, John Pleps, William Mead, Mathew Talbot, Jr., Joseph Ray, Robt Baber, Henry Tate, Benj. Henslee, Francis Callaway, Charles Talbot, Mark Cole, and Charles Ewing, Gent.

The first minister of the Gospel of Russell Parish of whom there is any record was the Rev. John Brander. A deed was made to him December 28, 1762, by Benjamin Arnold, of Buckingham County, conveying to "Rev'd John Brander, Minister of Russell Parish, in the County of Bedford and his successors for the use of the Parish," 496 acres of land in Bedford County. This land was subsequently sold by the trustees.

There is no record of a house of worship belonging to the Established Church in this parish for many years, though tradition says that John Callaway, son of William Callaway who donated the land for New London Towne, gave an acre near this village upon which to erect an Episcopal church. (This land is now a part of the campus of New London Academy.) The church was built, but the Episcopalians could not pay for it. Rather than give it up, they entered into an agreement, some years later, with the Presbyterians who had settled in that community to use it jointly, provided the latter would pay off the indebtedness. This they did, but with the tacit understanding that if ever the two congregations separated, the building would become the property of the Presbyterians. As the years passed a crack

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

appeared in the walls, which to the Episcopalians was inconsequential, but to the Presbyterians it rapidly increased in size until finally—by them—it was considered unsafe. A dispute arose over the disposition of the property and Bishop Cobbs was called upon to settle it. Remembering the original contract, he gave it to the Presbyterians. It was later sold to the Masons for a lodge hall.

The first authentic history of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Bedford County is found in the Russell Parish Register, now the property of Trinity Church. The first pages are here quoted:

"The Revd. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, the present revered Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, commenced his ministerial labors in Bedford County, Va., in May, 1824.

"At that time the Protestant Episcopal Church could scarcely be said to have had an existence in Bedford Cy.

"The labors of Mr. Cobbs were extended over several adjacent counties, and resulted in the establishment of several new Parishes and the resuscitation of some that were well nigh extinct. But he labored mainly within the bounds of Bedford County.

"During the continuance of his ministry in Russell Parish, Mr. Cobbs officiated for the period of nearly one year as Chaplain to the University of Virginia, where his labors were greatly blessed, and his memory is still held in grateful estimation.

"In the fall of the year eighteen hundred and thirty-nine Mr. Cobbs was invited to take charge of St. Paul's Church, Petersburg, and at that time the Pastoral connection between himself and Russell Parish ceased.

"The Rev. J. Somerville Marbury was invited to be the successor of Bishop Cobbs in the year 1840 and entered upon his duties in the autumn of that year preaching alternately at St. Stephen's and Trinity Churches.

"During his ministry the present St. Stephen's Church was built, or rather, completed. Mr. Marbury continued as Rector of Russell Parish until the year 1845.

"After Mr. Marbury's removal to the South, Russell Parish was divided and Trinity and St. Stephen's Churches became centres of two district Parishes."

In 1824 the Rev. Mr. Cobbs built his residence, "Glen Ayre," near Boonsboro, in the neighborhood in which Trinity Church was later located, and used it as a parish house. At that time he held services in the homes of his parishioners, but soon, realizing the wasted energy and scattered labors of this procedure, he set about raising funds for a house of worship. He and his family and others of his members contributed liberally to the cause, and Mrs. Lucy Clark, a

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Quaker, donated the land for the church. The name St. Paul's was chosen, but being so near Lynchburg, where there was already a church by that name, it was changed to Trinity before it was dedicated.

St. Stephen's, on the old Tabernacle Road, near what is now Forest, was built about the same time. Mr. Cobbs reported to the Council in session in Richmond in May, 1825, that he had the prospect of two neat brick churches in Bedford County to be erected this year, Trinity, at Boonsboro, and St. Stephen's, near Forest.

The land for St. Stephen's was given by Mrs. Ann Moseley, but somehow the deed was not recorded. In later years, in order to confirm the gift, a new deed was made by her daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, William Radford.

In 1828 Mr. Cobbs preached in Liberty, which he described as "a decent village in the interior of the County," where if he could be present on the Sabbath he had reason to believe the Lord would bless his ministrations to some permanent good. It was his custom to teach school five days a week, spend Saturdays in ministerial work in remote parts of the county, and on Sundays officiate in his regular churches.

In Liberty he found no house of worship and the people either greatly ignorant of the service or prejudiced against it, but the Masons, who were erecting a neat brick edifice on East Main Street for the purpose of a lodge, kindly determined to set apart and furnish the lower room exquisitely for Divine worship and gave to the Episcopal Church the priority of its use. Evidently no church organization was perfected at this time for some years afterward, through the efforts of James Callaway Steptoe, Mr. Cobbs was induced to preach regularly in Liberty. The Courthouse was used for his first sermon, and a large congregation assembled, perhaps more from idle curiosity than from any desire to be benefitted by this—to them—new and strange doctrine. No one could be found to read the responses, whereupon Mr. Cobbs endeavored to instruct two young ladies, but they declared they could never read aloud before the people. Fortunately he had brought with him a man of this faith and he read the responses alone.

In 1836 Mr. Cobbs reported to the Convention "the Parish of Russell divided, and the new Parish of West Russell organized. Over this parish the Rev. Nelson Sale officiates with encouraging prospects." Under the ministration of Mr. Sale St. Thomas' Church, on the north side of the county, was organized and the present brick building erected. Previously the few Episcopalians in that section had met for worship at the home of John A. Wharton, who was largely instrumental in the founding of this church, and donated the site for the building. St. Thomas' was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Cobbs, Bishop

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

of Alabama, November 1, 1844.

The Rev. David Caldwell followed Mr. Sale and was in charge of this parish when St. John's Church in Liberty was built. This church was consecrated September 4, 1847, by Rt. Rev. James Hervey Otey, a native of Bedford County. The Rev. Charles W. Thompson was the first rector of the new church and the first minister to wear the surplice in its pulpit.

It is interesting to recall the dissension that arose over the selection of the site for St. John's. The members in town wanted it on the northeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets while those in the country preferred the lot upon which was later the home of Dr. C. A. Board on North Bridge Street. After much discussion a compromise was effected and the church located between these two places on a lot donated by Joseph Wilson.

After Mr. Thompson, Mr. Sale again became rector and continued until his death. Mr. Sale was a zealous churchman, and his belief in the ultimate success of the church never wavered for one moment. That faith he solemnly bequeathed as a legacy to all who should come after him. In his will, dated 1858, he says: "For the benefit of all who may ever hereafter be concerned, I solemnly pronounce that I in belief of the Christian faith as taught and held by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States." He died in 1859 and was buried in the church yard at St. Thomas.'

After the death of Mr. Sale, John A. Wharton was made deacon, and later ordained minister and rector of St. John's. He was a man of varied talents and occupations, farmer, preacher, banker, editor, lawyer, judge, and efficient, faithful and successful in all. He was instrumental in founding St. Mark's at Bufordsville, now Montvale. In 1871 he was made Judge of the County Court and resigned the rectorship of St. John's, but continued to preach regularly at St. Thomas' and St. Mark's until his death in 1888, at the ripe old age of eighty-five.

Mr. Wharton's successor was Rev. Henderson Sutor, who was popular with all classes. During his rectorship Christ's Church, near Timber Ridge, was built, and he held services there at stated intervals. In August, 1878, he resigned to take charge of historic old Christ's Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Then followed in succession: the Rev. John J. Lloyd, Rev. John T. Mason, Rev. R. W. Forsythe, Rev. Thomas W. Jones, Rev. Dallas Tucker, Rev. Thomas C. Page, Rev. W. A. Pearman, Rev. William C. Marshall and the Rev. G. W. Beale. It was during the ministry of Mr. Pearman that the present new building was erected (1924) and the old church sold to the Christian denomination.

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As was stated in the sketch of the Episcopal Church above, the first Presbyterians in the county worshipped at New London in the brick building erected by the Episcopalian upon an acre of ground donated to them by John Callaway. In 1795 New London Academy, a classified school for boys, was built on land adjoining the church, and frequently the principal of the school was also pastor of the church. According to previous agreement, when the two congregations separated the building became the property of the Presbyterians. It was subsequently sold to the Masons, who tore it down and used the brick for a lodge building.

Between 1858 and 1860, during the pastorate of Dr. John G. Shepperson, the Presbyterians erected a frame building immediately across the road in front of the Academy, and as it was so much nearer the school than the town of New London it soon became known as the Academy Church, the name by which it is called today.

Preaching points had been established at Spring Hill and Ivy Creek—the latter also known as “White Church, or “Miss Betsy Read’s Church”—and in 1888 a commission of the Presbytery set apart the congregations at Academy and Spring Hill as one church, merging Spring Hill with Academy.

Seven miles east of Liberty, near the Lynchburg and Salem turnpike, stood Pisgah, another very old church, which, in days gone by, was a very important one. Unfortunately its early records were not preserved and it is not known which was older, Academy or Pisgah.

In connection with these churches it is fitting to mention Dr. J. G. Shepperson, who spent most of his life in Bedford County and was greatly beloved by all denominations. He was a man of small stature, with a shock of long white hair surmounting a very wrinkled countenance, in which an eagle nose was prominent among otherwise small features. He jokingly declared that his skin must have been made for a man much larger than himself, it was so wrinkled. He was retiring in manner, with peculiarities of voice and gesture which gave him a unique presence—almost ludicrous. His whole demeanor, if judged by his appearance, betokened a man of small caliber. But the looks belied the man! He was a deep thinker, a profound theologian and a man of power. A keen sense of humor and a gift of repartee made him welcome in any group of young or old.

The earliest record that has been found of Pisgah is dated 1843, the Rev. Jacob D. Mitchell, pastor. At this time the Presbyterians owned an interest in Mt. Olivet, on the south side of the county, and Salem, on the north side. There was also Peaks Church, located near

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Moseley's Bridge, a contemporary of Pisgah through the years, and a congregation at Liberty with no church building until 1844. One session and one pastor served them all and for many years their history is interwoven. The session was composed of representatives of each of these groups, the first recorded one, in 1843, having the following present:

Jacob D. Mitchell, pastor and moderator; Thomas L. Leftwich, Rufus Thomas, Rob't M. Claytor, James Leftwich, John Witten, Henry W. Moseley, George C. Moseley, Moses Fuqua, Jesse Leftwich, and George Steptoe.

At the quarterly communion season it was customary for as many of the scattered congregations as could do so, to gather in the neighborhood where the communion was to be celebrated and have preaching for several days prior to this service, which was always a beautiful and solemn occasion.

In 1853 Pisgah withdrew from the group and called its own pastor, the Rev. William H. Matthews. Later it was grouped with Academy Church. In 1896 the congregation built a new house of worship a few miles east of the old one. This was burned in 1929, but rebuilt upon the same site in 1931.

Peaks Church was located about one mile northwest of Moseley's Bridge on the Patterson's Mill road. Its early history is taken from "Origin and Early History of Presbyterianism in Virginia," by D. L. Beard:

"We first find this church (Peaks) in the records of Hanover Presbytery, April 3, 1761, when Brown is appointed to preach for them one Sabbath. The church was organized in 1764.

"Rev. David Rice was the pastor in connection with Bedford and Concord from 1766 to 1777. After Rice's departure the church depended upon Presbyterial supplies until March, 1785, when they presented a call to James Mitchell. He was pastor from 1785 to 1841—a term of 54 years. In 1792 James Turner was called as Collegiate pastor. He remained until after 1800, serving with Mitchell during these years."

The membership of Peaks Church covered so much territory by 1877 it was deemed wise to divide the congregation. This was done and a new building erected farther to the northwest, which was called New Bethel.

In 1881 Old Peaks was burned and never rebuilt. Some of the members joined New Bethel and some moved their membership to Liberty. New Bethel, as such, continued four years and then changed its name to Peaks, thus preserving the old and honored name.

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Particular mention should be made of the work of two of the pastors of Peaks, the Rev. P. T. Penick and the Rev. John Ruff, both of whom were pioneers, carrying their work beyond the bounds of their fields and establishing new work. Mr. Penick was a man of deep piety, coupled with a most attractive personality and great musical ability. This latter was a great asset in the social as well as the spiritual work of the church, and his ministry of song remained as a benediction in the community for many years. The post office of Penicks was named for him.

Mr. Ruff was a man of deep convictions, and tireless energy, and was fearless and out-spoken. He rode many miles to serve his group of churches, which at one time included Bufordsville, Peaks, Laurel Grove, Otterville and Charlemont, with an occasional service at Salem. He was sometimes affectionately called "The Shepherd of the North Side," because of his long and faithful service. He was pastor of this group for twenty years.

Laurel Grove Church had its beginning in a mission established by Rev. P. T. Penick and was organized as a church in 1861. Since that time it has been served by the same pastors as Peaks, as has Cool Spring.

Montvale Church was established in 1883 and has also had the same pastors as Peaks.

Liberty Presbyterian Church was built about 1844. An organization had existed in the town for many years previous to this time, grouped with Peaks and Pisgah and perhaps served by the same pastors. The neat little brick building, still in use today, was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. Jacob D. Mitchell, but the real leader in the undertaking was Mrs. Thomas L. Leftwich, a "Mother in Israel." She donated the stone steps in front of the church, which she bought with money secured by the sale of her beautiful needlework, sometimes working all night, by candle light, that she might finish an article to exhibit at a fair or bazaar.

The steeple was built on the ground. The loafers and others who quit their work to watch it put in position argued pro and con that it could not be done. The workmen, tired of the ever increasing crowds, took advantage of a bright moonlight night and, when the town was asleep, hoisted it to the proper place, where it remains today.

The pipe organ, the first in Liberty, was installed in 1879. To the women of the church, the Ladies Aid Society, is due, in large measure, this achievement. Mrs. William Graves, herself a talented musician, was the leading spirit as they toiled together to raise the necessary funds.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

In 1924 extensive improvements were made. The building was lengthened at the rear and a large Sunday School annex erected; an electric motor was installed in the organ to take the place of the old hand device that had done service for so many years, and new pews were placed in the sanctuary. In 1928 the name was changed to Bedford Presbyterian Church in order to better identify it with the town.

Dr. J. H. Grey, widely known and greatly beloved by all classes and denominations, served this church continuously for thirty-seven years, quietly walking in the footsteps of the Master, who "went about doing good."

As a family, that of Col. William Graves has made the greatest contribution to the Presbyterian church. Col. Graves was an elder in the local church, his son, Joseph A., a minister; his daughters, Hettie D., organist for thirty years; Augusta T., went as a missionary to China in 1893, married Rev. Hugh White, also a missionary, in China; Junia A., a home missionary in her own county, giving of her strength and means to the Cool Spring Church and school; and Willie B., whose soprano voice led the music of this church for the past fifty years.

As an individual, perhaps none excelled James R. Guy in loyalty or length of service. He came to Liberty in 1872 as principal of the public school and immediately united with this church. He was superintendent of the Sunday School 40 years, deacon, elder, and member of the choir. He was a man of spotless character, kind, and sympathetic. He was a leader, not only in his church, but in the community at large, and when he retired from active work, after having spent 43 years in educating the youth of this section, he was honored with a public entertainment in which was expressed his worth to the community as a citizen, a churchman, and an educator.

Other faithful members of this church through the years have been the Earlys, Moseleys, Saunderses, Browns, Smiths, Watsons, and others.

On Taylor's Mountain, the northwestern border of the county, is the church bearing the attractive name of Cool Spring. For a long time, owing to its isolation and bad roads, this section was probably the most neglected and backward in the county. Lack of school and church privileges produced a condition of ignorance and lawlessness. Many years ago a log union church was built by all denominations. This was served for some years by the Rev. S. J. Liggon, a Methodist minister from Lynchburg, and later by the Rev. H. P. Brown, a Sunday School missionary of the Presbyterian Church. Others preached there occasionally, but the work finally lapsed.

In 1913 Miss Junia A. Graves of Bedford conceived the idea of

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

building a Mission Cottage there to provide a suitable home for mission workers and school teachers. Under her leadership the Auxiliary of the Bedford Presbyterian Church undertook the work, purchased a site and built a neat and attractive cottage, and secured workers from the Home Mission Board.

The work prospered, and the next step was to build a church. The Presbyterians bought the interests of the other denominations in the old log building, and in its place erected a commodious frame building, which was dedicated in 1915. The whole community has been tremendously benefitted, both intellectually and spiritually.

At Villamont there is a community church, which includes a Presbyterian church organization, and Mr. Query was the first pastor. It was established in 1925, and is a real "Church in the Wildwood," nestling in one of the spots where nature is loveliest. It is unique in that many of the residents who hold membership elsewhere, work together in this little community church as one body.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

At a meeting of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association in 1770 the body was divided into three parts, one composed of the churches in South Carolina, another of those in North Carolina and the third of those in Virginia. The Virginia body was later divided into two sections, and still later ever more divisions were made.

In 1776 representatives of a number of these Virginia churches met in Pittsylvania County at Strawberry Church and formed what at first was called "Upper District Association" but later known as "Henry County Association." In spite of the changes of name, that of the old church in which it was organized continued to cling to it, and on May 30, 1791, it was made official, as follows: "It is agreed that this association shall go by the name of Strawberry Association." By this name it is still known, though its membership has narrowed to the churches of Bedford County and a few in each of the surrounding counties, including those of Lynchburg and Altavista.

The first meeting of the association in Bedford County was held in 1782 at Goose Creek Church, and in 1791, when the name was officially adopted, the meeting was held in Hatcher's Meeting House on the north side of the county. The Rev. William Johnson was the first moderator.

For many years the annual meeting was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday following the first Sunday in August, and drew the largest crowds that assembled for any occasion in the county. The entire community in which the meeting was held cooperated in the entertainment of the ministers, delegates and other guests, some homes

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

accommodating forty or fifty persons over night. Preparations began weeks in advance. More chickens were raised than usual; more vegetables grown; beeves, shoats and lambs were fattened; fences and out buildings were whitewashed; and the whole neighborhood took on a festive appearance. As the time approached, long tables were erected on the church grounds and an arbor built in a grove near by. Seats for the arbor were made of wooden slabs.

The ministers and delegates began to arrive on Monday and after the coming of the railroad had to be met at the station. On Tuesday morning the opening sermon was preached in the church building and the body organized for business. Guests continued to arrive, and at noon each day the tables were laden with food and all invited to partake. Upon adjournment each afternoon the hospitality committee saw that all had homes assigned them for the night. There were no evening services, this time being spent in social intercourse. Wednesday was considered the "big day," for on Tuesday the people were arriving, and on Thursday many were leaving, but all managed to be present on Wednesday. Preaching was held in the arbor twice each day and well attended, but many spent the entire time visiting, driving, and having a good time generally. The young people looked forward to it from year to year as a time for making new acquaintances and reviving old friendships, and much "courtting" went on in the top buggies and carriages parked about the grounds.

The crowds continued to increase, sometimes as many as two thousand being present on Wednesday, until the entertainment of the association taxed the churches beyond endurance, and in 1931 the time for the annual meeting was changed and "dinner on the grounds" was discontinued. Since that time the meetings have been held in the Bedford Baptist Church because of its central location and the convenience of nearby restaurants and hotels.

It is generally conceded that Morgan's Church, organized in 1771 and originally called Goose Creek, is the oldest Baptist Church in the county. Perhaps it is the oldest in continuous existence, but the following extract from a deed made Dec. 24, 1771, proves that Jointee, a union church near what is now Goodview, was established as early, and perhaps even earlier, than Goose Creek. James Davis sold to "Matthew Talbot and Stephen White and the rest of the Society of the Baptist Church" for 10 pounds, "one acre of Land. Part of the Track whereon I now Live, to be laid off at the said Society's Discretion Most Convenient to include the said Society's Meeting House and the adjacent spring," etc. The exact spot upon which this church stood cannot now be determined, owing to the growth of timber covering the ground, but the churchyard is easily located. Quite a number of

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

graves are to be seen with head and foot stones, and no doubt many more are there from which stones have disappeared.

Jointee Church was situated near the line between the lands of James Davis and James Mayse, and the plat of that of the latter recorded with the division of the same shows the exact location of the church and gives its name.

Goose Creek Church was organized in 1771 by the Rev. Samuel Shrewsbury and the Rev. Nathaniel Shrewsbury, and became a part of the Strawberry Association upon organization of that body. It took its name from the stream upon which its first place of worship was located. Tradition in the church is that the name was changed to "Morgan's" in honor of a Mrs. Morgan who donated land for a second place of worship. The county records do not show any such transfer, but in 1852 it is recorded that Francis W. Robertson and his wife, Nancy, deeded to "Goose Creek Church which worships at Morgan's meeting house" two acres of land on Hunting Creek, because of their love for the religious society.

As the years passed a difference of opinion as to the duty of the church in regard to missions arose in the denomination and caused a division which resulted in the formation of two denominations, the Missionary Baptists and the Primitive, or Anti-Missionary, Baptists, the latter being sometimes called "Hard Shells" and sometimes "Old Side" Baptists. Both denominations worshipped at "Old Morgan's" until the Missionary Baptists erected the present building.

Another of the early Baptist churches was Staunton, organized by the Rev. William Johnson in the latter part of the eighteenth century. This was also on the south side of the county, and took its name from the river which flowed near by.

According to Semple's History of the Baptist Church, Little Otter Church was organized in 1785 with 90 members. If this organization had a church building prior to 1804, no mention of it has been found. Meetings were probably held in the homes of the members or in the Courthouse.

Under date of September 22, 1800, is this Court order: "On motion of John Otey, leave is granted to build a meeting house on the Courthouse lot beyond the spring." This house may not have been erected, for on September 25, 1804, John Otey sold to the "trustees of the Baptist Church lately convened in Liberty in the County of Bedford under the care of Isham Fuqua their pastor, to wit: James Bramblett, John Hancock, Joseph Fuqua, and John Otey," for \$15, one and one half acres adjoining the town of Liberty "for the purpose of building a Baptist Meeting House on." This house was built of brick and served the congregation as a church until 1850, when it was sold and

*John Anthony and Thomas Langford
with 32 members. William Johnson
being first pastor (taken from*

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

converted into a residence. Other denominations worshipped in this building also in early days. It was located on North Bridge Street where the Standard Oil Filling Station is today.

In 1850 the trustees of Little Otter Church—Armstead Otey, Benjamin H. Mansfield, Abner Fuqua, Abraham Fuqua, and Adam J. Bowyer—purchased from the estate of James Mayse for \$290 the lot on East Main Street on which the present church stands. A neat brick building was erected at once, and in 1854 the name of the organization was changed to Liberty Baptist Church. The building was of colonial design, with tall white pillars in front and a steeple on top in which was a bell which called the people to worship. This bell tower was blown down in a storm and never replaced. The baptistry was first located on the outside of the church in the rear, with a dressing room adjoining it. Years later a new baptistry was built under the pulpit, which later was removed for baptismal services. Still later a more convenient baptistry was constructed in the rear of the pulpit, a gift from Mrs. Ann Bell Smith, a devoted and active member of this church for many years.

In 1901, the name of the town having been changed from Liberty to Bedford, the church fell in line and became the Bedford Baptist Church.

The congregation continued to worship in this building until 1923, when it was razed and the present imposing and commodious structure erected.

Beaver Dam, an arm of Goose Creek, located near Chamblissburg, was constituted a church in 1803 with Rev. Joshua Burnett as its first pastor, Nicholas Pearcey and John Smelser, deacons, and Henry Woodcock, clerk. Its first place of worship was a log house on the site of the present church, to which was attached a shed for the use of the Negro members. There were no Negro churches in those days. The whites and blacks belonged to the same organization and received the same religious instruction. Special seats, however, were provided for the Negroes in either an annex or the gallery of the church.

Rules for the conduct of church members were very strict, as a reading of the "Church Book" shows. They were excluded for drunkenness and gambling, and also for obtaining church letters and failing to connect themselves with other churches. They were lax enough with regard to morals, but severely intolerant of what they called worldly pleasures—games or amusements of any kind being strictly forbidden.

The old log house was used as the place of worship until after 1849, when "Jointee," a union church, as its name indicates, which was about three miles south of this place, closed its doors and its organizations united with Beaver Dam in building the brick church which is

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

in use today. The Baptists retained the name Beaver Dam and the Methodists called their organization New Hope. New Hope appears in the minutes of the Bedford Circuit (Methodist) the first time in 1865, so the transfer must have been made just prior to this time.

The Baptists were the stronger denomination and their preaching day, the second Sunday of the month, always attracted a large crowd. New hats and new dresses appeared for the first time on the "Second Sunday," and the first fried chickens of the springtime and the first vegetables from the garden were always saved for the "company dinner" upon this occasion, for all visitors from other neighborhoods—and there was always a goodly number—were "invited home to dinner" by members of the congregation.

I cannot refrain from giving my own recollections of this church. My grandfather, Joseph W. Mays, and his wife, Malinda Wright Mays, moved their membership here from Jointee, and lived only a quarter mile west of the church. My mother, Laurie C. Mays, their only child, was married here in 1872 to my father, Thomas A. Jeter, the first marriage in the new church building. My mother died in February, 1876, leaving two children, my sister, three months old, and myself, not yet three years old. My father went to Liberty to engage in business and we continued to live with our grandparents, as we had all previously done. Three years later our grandmother died and we became the constant care and companions of our grandfather, who was then advanced in years. He took us to Sunday school regularly, and on preaching days we stayed with him throughout the services—sometimes from 9 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. If we became tired—and we usually did—he would sit in the middle of the front bench in the "amen corner" and stretch us out on either side of him and let us sleep to our own satisfaction. As we grew older, he taught us to "sit up and behave."

The church was a few hundred yards from the road in the midst of a grove. There were only a few carriages in the neighborhood and those who had none and lived too far away to walk, came on horseback, or sometimes in the farm wagons with chairs for seats. It was the custom to tie the horses near the building and their neighing in friendly conversation with each other or in resentment at too long a sermon was often distracting to the congregation. After more than a half century, when I hear the neighing of horses, I can imagine myself seated in this church by the side of a window from which these impatient animals can be seen pawing the ground under the saplings to which they are tied.

Another custom which obtained in my childhood was for the young men to arrive early, and as the young ladies rode up to the

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

"horse block" on side saddles, with long black riding skirts flowing in the breeze, the boys gallantly appeared and, after assisting them to alight, took their horses and tied them to small saplings or limbs of the trees. They then returned to the girls, unbuttoned their riding skirts and hung them on a rack provided on the side of the horse block, and escorted them to the door of the church and left them, the ladies entering one door and the men the other. Every church had two doors and the men and women sat on opposite sides of the building. If a couple sat together it was accepted by the neighborhood gossips as an announcement that they were sweethearts. Sometimes a newly wedded pair would appear the first Sunday after the nuptials with all of their attendants, and if the news had been previously spread abroad the congregation would be unusually large. The bride and groom would then sit together on the "ladies' side" about midway the church with their attendants behind them, each couple occupying an entire bench, if possible.

I remember the "protracted meetings," held here, as in other churches of that day, by "early candle-light." The full moon was usually chosen as the time for these meetings so that travel over the unimproved roads and by-paths would be less difficult. Before the advent of kerosene oil, lanterns made of tin, punctured somewhat like a cocoanut grater, but with larger holes, were in general use. A candle was placed inside and all the light shed by these primitive luminaries came through these holes in the sides. On dark nights every man carried a lantern. Whenever I hear the cry of a screech owl on a dark night, I am suddenly transported to the road between our house and the church, and still have somewhat the same sensations as, when a little child, I would cling to my grandfather in sheer panic at the unearthly sound of this bird of the night.

Suck Spring Church, near Peaksville, was organized in 1805, but little is known of its early history. In 1863 an honor roll was inscribed in an old book still in existence. On this roll are the names of Alexander Campbell, John Vassar, Abner Overstreet, and David Hodges—all received by letter from the army.

The church has had three houses of worship, the first of unhewn logs, the second, 30x40 feet, of hewn logs stood between the first and the present building. The one now in use was built about 1860 on a foundation of bed rock.

Timber Ridge Church was also organized in 1805 and a house of worship erected upon land donated for that purpose by W. B. Lowry.

The Big Island Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on Sunday, October 25, 1936, with an all day meeting, at which many of

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

the former pastors were present. The church was organized October 24, 1886, by a committee from the churches of Hunting Creek and Chestnut Hill in Bedford County, and Corner Stone in Amherst County. Worship was held jointly with the Methodists in a small frame building until 1921, when the present brick building was erected.

Mount Hermon Church, on the north side of the county, is an out-growth of Hatcher's Meeting House of Revolutionary days. Rev. Jeremiah Hatcher came to Bedford from Powhatan County about 1781. Prior to that time he had been pastor of Tomahawk Church in Chesterfield County. After coming to Bedford he built, on his own plantation on the north fork of Otter, a house of worship, which was known as "Hatcher's Meeting House." In a sketch of him in Virginia Baptist Ministers, it is stated that the "Otter Church" was built up principally under his ministry, and enjoyed his indefatigable labors without fee or reward until the time of his death" (1804). Mount Hermon was then erected and has been in continuous existence since that time.

Mount Zion Church, near Montvale, is another of the old churches of the county, the site for the first building having been deeded to the church in 1825 by William Ewing.

The present house of worship stands on a high bank just north of the highway and east of Goose Creek. It was originally a union church, used by both Baptists and Methodists until 1891, when the Montvale Methodist church was erected and the Methodist organization transferred to the new church.

Mount Olivet, still another of the union churches of the county, was originally used by Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians, but the few Presbyterians and Episcopalians who lived in that section passed away or moved elsewhere and the church was left to the Baptists and Methodists.

The first minutes of the Baptist organization (1860-65) now available record some of the strict rules and customs of the church of that time. As has been previously said, the Baptists of early days claimed that all worldly pleasures were of the devil and led straight to perdition; that members of the church should avoid mirth and frivolity and be grave and serious at all times. Committees were appointed by Mt. Olivet to see members who participated in "plays," such as snap, stealing pardners, and others, and also to wait upon those who had been dancing and cite them to appear before the church to answer the charges preferred against them. It was required that any male member who "failed to attend church services for more than two meetings at any one time should make known to the church at the next meeting his reason for non-attendance."

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The first itinerant Methodist preacher in America was Robert Williams, who preached his first sermon in Virginia in 1772 from the steps of the Courthouse in Norfolk. The next year he reported 100 members in Virginia. In 1775 a great revival of religion broke out. Services were conducted in homes, in groves—wherever crowds could be gathered. At the Annual Conference in 1776 a membership of more than two thousand was reported.

The effects of this revival were far-reaching and lasting. They extended into Bedford County, and by 1784 there was a sufficient number of Methodists here to organize a circuit. This circuit contained the whole of Bedford County, parts of adjoining counties and Lynchburg.

In December, 1784, the famous Christmas Conference was held in Baltimore, when Episcopal Methodism was organized in America with Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as its first bishops. Thomas Coke spent most of his time in Europe, hence the task of superintending Methodism in America fell upon Asbury. His travels brought him into Bedford County, as shown by his journal:

“Monday, June 16, 1788: Rode about fifty miles to Brother Agee’s in Buckingham County, and thence to Bedford Circuit. In our route we were compelled to ford James River, not without danger. We were hospitably entertained.”

“July 7, 1790: I preached in the Court House at New London, where I had a large, serious and polite congregation. I dined with my old friend, Joseph Perkins. In Bedford County there are thirteen societies of Methodists, three or four of which are large. There are about ten local preachers who labour for Christ and for souls.”

“Saturday, 16th, and Sunday, 17th, of May, 1794, was Quarterly Meeting at Wilson’s Chapel. I came off under rain and clouds to a town called Liberty and preached in the Court House.”

Aside from the brief references in Ashbury’s journal little is known of what took place on Bedford Circuit until 1837. From that year the minutes of the Quarterly Conferences have been carefully kept. Liberty and Lynchburg were then “societies” on the Bedford Circuit. In 1849 a complete list of the societies is given, as follows:

Liberty, Mt. Zion, Union, Jointee, Olive Branch, Emmaus, Bethlehem, Antioch, Providence, Leftwich’s, Wilson’s, Calvary, Ebenezer, Nazareth, Bethel, Salem, Wilkerson’s, Thomas’ Chapel, Smyrna, Kabler’s, and Cross Roads. Many of these, bearing the original names, have been in continuous existence for more than one hundred years, while others have changed their names or have been dis-

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

continued.

The first Society organized in Liberty worshipped for a while in the Courthouse. Bishop Asbury mentions preaching there in 1794 and again in 1800, the last time to a crowd that more than filled the house. On both of these occasions he preached by appointment, hence there must have been an organization in effect at that time. Later the Methodists, in common with other denominations, worshipped in the Baptist Meeting House on Bridge Street.

The first church building erected by the Methodists in Liberty of which there is any record is the small substantial brick building on West Main Street, built in 1838, which is now St. Phillips's (colored) Episcopal Church. Ten years after its completion it was mentioned in the Conference minutes as the "best house of worship on the circuit." It was kept in good repair until the Civil War, during which time it suffered from neglect. In July, 1866, the church report says: "The church at Liberty is to be entirely re-arranged and thoroughly refitted and beautified." By October this had been completed and a "cabinet organ of sweet tone" provided. (The money for this organ was raised by Mrs. William Evans and the first organist was her niece, Miss Jennie Reynolds, afterwards Mrs. Moore and mother of Miss Joe Moore of the Bulletin staff.)

In 1867 "The Class at Liberty" sent a committee, composed of Robert C. Mitchell and Micajah Davis, to the meeting of the Annual Conference in Norfolk to ask that this church be made a station and that an unmarried man be sent as pastor-in-charge. The request was granted and the Rev. William G. Starr was assigned this appointment. His father had served the Bedford Circuit many years before, and he, himself, had been junior pastor of the circuit immediately following "the surrender." (While Dr. S. S. Lambeth was pastor of this church, about 1899, Dr. Starr was invited to preach the baccalaureate sermon at Randolph Macon Academy. Dr. Lambeth, noted for his wit, was asked to introduce him. He began, "Twinkle, twinkle little Starr, How I wonder what you are! Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky.")

The first Board of Stewards was composed of William Evans, I. N. Clark, George L. Gibbs and C. P. McNary.

The church grew and prospered, and by 1883 felt the need of expansion. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Wilbur F. Robins a lot on East Main Street was purchased and a committee appointed to make plans for a new building. Mr. Robins was not returned to this charge, so the task of building the new church fell to his successor, the Rev. H. P. Mitchell. It was completed in 1887 and on May 1 of that year the dedicatory services were held at which the

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Rev. Adam C. Bledsoe preached. At the close of the four-year term of Mr. Mitchell, in 1888, the membership numbered 178.

In 1890 Randolph Macon Academy was built here and opened in September as a school for boys. This church was greatly strengthened by the faculty and student body. The principals, A. M. Hughlett and E. Sumter Smith, supplied much needed leadership, and their wives and others of the faculty lent their support to the program of the church.

During the pastorates of the Rev. J. T. Whiteley and Dr. S. S. Lambeth steady progress was experienced and improvements and repairs to the building were made as needed. In 1901 the parsonage on Bedford Avenue was built and first occupied by Rev. Joseph W. Shackson, who had served the Bedford Circuit four years prior to coming to this church.

In 1909, under the leadership of Rev. Ernest Stevens, a Sunday school annex was erected, the sanctuary re-decorated, a new carpet laid, a pipe organ installed and the chairs, which had been used for seating, were replaced by comfortable pews.

During World War I three stars on the Service Flag of the church were changed to gold, Ambrose Rucker, Odell Saunders, and Russell Scott having given their lives for their country. Dr. James C. Reed, a veteran of the Civil War, was pastor and led the church in all war activities. His youngest son, Jesse V. Reed, was killed in battle in France and a memorial service was held for him in this church.

In 1890, when the name of the town was changed from Liberty to Bedford City that of the church was changed also, and when the word "City" was dropped the church again fell in line and was known as the Bedford Methodist Episcopal Church, South. When the Rev. L. T. Williams was pastor he found the name so frequently confused with those of the circuits in the county that he recommended that this be called Main Street. His suggestion was adopted by the Board of Stewards and from 1928 it was known as Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until the unification of all branches of Methodism in 1940. Since then it has been called Main Street Methodist Church, the words "Episcopal" and "South" having been eliminated by order of the General Conference.

Not knowing the actual time of the organization of the "Society at Liberty," the church adopted 1838, the date of erection of its first building here, from which to consider its authentic history, and on Sunday, October 23, 1938, during the pastorate of the Rev. James B. Douglas, it celebrated its centennial.

In 1942 a Memorial Committee composed of Mrs. W. Bassett

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Valentine, Mrs. George P. Parker, and Mrs. Frank H. Mitchell was appointed by the Board of Stewards. Interest in memorial windows was created at once and events in the life of Christ and His parables were chosen as subjects to be used.

The first window installed, "The Good Shepherd," was the gift of Mrs. Janie Hicks Royer in memory of her husband, William Christian Royer, who grew to manhood in this church. Following in rap'd succession came "Christ in Gethsemane," "Christ Healing the Sick," "Resurrection Morn," "Christ Blessing Little Children," and "Christ and the Woman of Samaria," all given by families of the church in memory of loved ones.

In August, 1943, Mrs. Valentine passed away and a handsome Pulpit Bible was given in her memory by families of the men whom she had kept in contact with this, their church during World War II. Mrs Parker was advanced to the chairmanship of the Memorial committee and Mrs. G. E. Heller added as the third member.

The window "Christ and the Doctors" in memory of Prof. E. Sumter Smith was placed by subscriptions of many of his "boys"—students at Randolph Macon Academy under him. "The Nativity," "The Ascension," and "The Good Samaritan" were the last windows given. A pulpit, Hymnal, a brass cross, and four brass offering plates are other much appreciated memorials.

The pipe organ was rebuilt and enlarged during the pastorate of Rev. A. W. Potts in memory of the five young men from this church whose lives were sacrificed in World War II; viz.: Robert Francis Nance, Joseph Ernest Parker, Jr., Roy Boxley Gipson, Robert Alvin Fizer, and Leslie Cecil Abbott, Jr. Chimes are to be added in memory of James E. Hutcheson.

The lot, and small building on it, in rear of the church were also acquired during the pastorate of Mr. Potts. The building has been converted into a lodge and used for a class room, and the lot made into a recreation center and also used for vespers services during the summer months.

The Sunday school was organized in 1839 with Samuel Hoffman as Superintendent.

In 1922, during the pastorate of the Rev. C. C. Bell, a three story addition was erected at the rear of the building for class rooms and a kitcher and the school was divided into departments.

CIRCUITS

The Methodist churches of the county are grouped together in circuits of four or five churches each, with a pastor in charge of each circuit. Changes have been made from time to time in the group-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

ing and, in some instances, in the names of the circuits, but the original "Bedford Circuit" still remains, though its territory, once embracing all of Bedford County and Lynchburg, is now confined to the northeastern part of the county, with its parsonage in the town of Bedford. The other circuits today are Middle Bedford, Moneta, Huddleston, Bedford Springs, Bellevue, Boonsboro, and Montvale.

On the Middle Bedford Circuit, once called Staunton Circuit, is Wilson's Church, perhaps the oldest Methodist organization in the county. Among its pastors have been the Rev. John Early, later Presiding Elder, and still later Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who preached his first sermon at Wilson's, Edward Morris, James Hasse, Richard Pope, Christopher Manning, Stith Mead, William H. Starr, George W. Nolley, B. H. Johnson, W. W. Bennett, J. W. Childs, Joseph Lear, Jacob Manning, William L. Hunter, Joshua Hunter, and R. N. Creeks.

In 1850 the official board of the Staunton Circuit was composed of the following: Stewards, Marston S. Ayers, W. R. Austin, Dr. James Alexander Walker, D. R. Arnold, George Skinnell, F. W. Robertson, M. P. Rucker, Dr. B. H. Moulton, C. A. Douglas, Benjamin Mitchell, Thomas J. Phelps, Hiram Fitzpatrick, Isham Laughon, C. C. Updike, C. D. Nelms, Elisha Burnett, Charles T. Andrews, and William A. Lee.

Bethlehem Church now on the Moneta Circuit, is one of the oldest churches on the south side of the county and was organized about one hundred years ago. A crude log building was erected at that time and used as a place of worship as soon as the roof was on—even before the floor was laid.

After some years this house was torn down and a frame building erected, with a high, boxed-up pulpit, and the rear of the partitioned off for the use of the negro slaves. This served as the place of worship until 1928, when it, too, was razed and a modern brick building, with large auditorium and eight class rooms for Sunday school, was erected upon the same site.

In the membership of this church are Parkers, Ruckers, Meadors and Robertsons.

Union, the oldest church on the Montvale Circuit, was organized in 1830. The first church building was of logs, and stood about one hundred yards from the present church, on the south side of the road. The site and building materials were donated by Henry Lewis Stiff. The building was about 24 by 30 feet, with a stone chimney and a very large fireplace. The seats were made of slabs. It was used originally by Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans and Presbyterians, hence its name.

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Class leaders of early days were Robert E. Jones, Capt. Nathaniel Thaxton, John Bowles, Jack Fuqua, and John A. Cooper.

In 1850 the church was moved to its present location and used also as a school building. In 1875, while Robert E. Stiff was teacher, it caught fire and burned to the ground. An arbor was then built and services held there until the erection of the present building. Leading members are the families of Cooper, Stiff, Holdren, Preas, Wrenn, and others.

In 1893 the Methodist organization known as New Hope and worshipping with the Baptist organization known as Beaver Dam decided to withdraw and build a church of its own faith. J. M. Pendleton donated a site in the village of Chamblissburg and the neat little frame church, now standing, was built. The Rev. J. W. Parrish was the pastor and prime mover in the project and for him the church was named Parrish Chapel. Leaders of this church through the years have been Thomas Melson, John Newsom, William B. Newsom, Josiah H. Nimmo, Albert L. Harris, N. T. Harris, J. W. Nimmo, S. D. Hawkins, and John E. Murrell.

Sometime after the War Between the States, Dr. J. J. Terrell of "Rock Castle," Campbell County, was riding along a public road near a body of woods on Sunday morning and, seeing several boys gathered there, inquired why they were not at Sunday school. They replied that there was not a Sunday school in reach of them. This gathering, so far as can be ascertained, was the beginning of Shiloh Church, in the eastern part of the county.

General O. G. Clay gave the land upon which the church was built and through the efforts of Dr. Terrell, Edward Dinwiddie, Granville Moorman, and Henry Whitlow the organization was perfected. In a well-kept cemetery on the east side of the church sleep many of its worthy members.

Salem Church, near Peaksville, on the north side of the county, is another of the old union churches. The Presbyterians, as previously stated, owned an interest in it, and no doubt other denominations worshipped there also. It was built more than a hundred years ago upon land donated by James Jopling, whose wife was a devout Methodist. They had come from Amherst County and had settled in that vicinity, where there was no church of her faith. Their residence

As a Methodist church, Salem has been outstanding through the years for its consecrated membership and its loyalty to church is still standing and the family burying ground is near by. ideals. Among its members have been the families of Jopling, Watts, Wheat, Arrington, Watson, Parker, and others.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

THE BEDFORD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Prior to 1899 there was no organization of the Christian Church in this county, though several meetings had been held by ministers sent out by their State Mission Board. The Rev. A. F. Ramsey preached at Morgan's Church and baptized some of these who became charter members of this church, and in 1899 the Rev. James O. Shelbourne held a meeting at Mt. Olivet, when others were added to this number.

In October, 1900, William Robert Saunders and his family moved from Franklin County to Bedford. They were members of the Christian Church and interested themselves at once in the establishment of a church of their faith here. Through their influence the State Mission Board sent the Rev. W. H. Book of Martinsville and the Rev. and Mrs. F. F. Bullard of Lynchburg to conduct a meeting. This was held in the newly erected tobacco warehouse of W. R. Saunders and resulted in the organization of the Bedford Christian Church with about thirty members.

Services were held in the Opera House, the Courthouse and vacant store buildings until the congregation was able to build a chapel on West Main Street. Among the first officers of the church were W. R. Saunders, G. W. Bays, J. C. James, A. V. Gray and H. Everett Bays. For many years the church was ministered unto by the faculty and students of Lynchburg College, among them Dr. Kershner, Dr. Wilson and F. A. Blosser.

The membership continued to increase until the chapel was not large enough to accommodate the congregation. In 1924 St. John's Episcopal Church erected a new house of worship and offered the old building for sale. The heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, desiring to continue the good work begun by their parents, purchased the building and donated it to the Christian Church. This inspired the members to greater activity. The little chapel was sold, and the proceeds, together with monetary gifts and personal efforts on the part of the membership, enabled them soon to convert the old building into a comfortable and attractive house of worship. A memorial window, given by the Saunders family in memory of their parents, added greatly to the appearance of the church. The dedication took place in November 1924.

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

About 1865 Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Whitten, wife of Benjamin S. Whitten, had reached certain conclusions in her religious experience and had expressed herself upon certain doctrines which she felt

THE CHURCHES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

should be taught and practised by the church. Her husband, then teaching in North Carolina, came in touch with Matthias Miller, a member of the Dunkard church. The doctrines of this church were so similar to the views of his wife that he wrote her regarding the fact. Knowing of this church in Botetourt County, she set out at once to find these people. Accompanied by her father, Philip Saunders, and making the journey on horseback, she went prepared and with the intention of being baptized, provided she found this church practising the doctrines in which she believed. She found a people with a faith like her own, was baptized, and became the first member of this church in Bedford County. Her father and mother soon followed in her footsteps, and a little later her four brothers and three sisters were added to this church.

Soon preaching was begun in her community by such leaders as B. F. Moomaw and Peter Nininger from Botetourt County. Following them were David Plane, Joel Peters, Henry Beahm, Booten Harshbarger, John Moomaw, T. C. Denton and Jonas Graybill. These were the days when ministers took turns in filling appointments. This accounts for the large number who preached in those years. The general supervision, however, was in the hands of Elders Moomaw and Nininger, until age made it necessary for the work to be placed upon younger shoulders. At this time the charge was given to Samuel Crumpacker, who served most faithfully for more than thirty years. Since the charge passed into other hands, the Saunders Grove congregation, the first organized in the county, has been served by different ones, but chiefly by S. R. Saunders, a home minister, who has shown himself worthy by his untiring efforts and godly life.

For a number of years after the preachers began coming from Botetourt County services were held in the homes. Those most frequently used were the homes of Benjamin S. Whitten, James Cadwalender, John Woodford, and P. R. Saunders. In 1893 the members erected a church building, known as Saunders Grove, which was dedicated in the fall of that year. This edifice is still in use as a place of worship. Other groups have sprung up in later years around Antioch, Jeter's Chapel, Meadow's Chapel, and Terrace View.

Of the ministers mentioned above, Henry Beahm, Booten Harshbarger, and S. R. Saunders were natives of Bedford County. Four or five sons of Henry Beahm, among them I. N. H. Beahm, J. C. Beahm, and S. P. Beahm, became active and successful ministers, laboring in other fields. The late I. N. H. Beahm was the founder of Daleville College, in Botetourt County.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the spring of 1874 Father McGurk of Lynchburg came to Liberty and conducted the first Mass ever offered here. This service was held in the basement of the Courthouse and was attended by the few Catholic families living in and around the town. Before they dispersed some one suggested that a Catholic church be organized and P. McCrossin at once offered to donate a site for the building. His offer was accepted and the others present subscribed several dollars toward the undertaking. With this and some financial assistance from friends of the denomination, a beginning was made and the corner stone laid in 1874. Other donations were secured and the church was finished and dedicated in August, 1875.

The membership has been increased since the establishment of the Elks National Home here, many of the residents of the home being members of this faith.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The Schools of Bedford County

"The Recollections of a Long Life," by the Rev. Jeremiah Bell Jeter, D. D., who was born in Bedford County in 1802, gives interesting accounts of life in his native county more than a century ago. The following is taken from the chapter entitled "The Schools":

The school houses were of a primitive style of architecture. They were constructed of logs, notched at the corners, daubed with clay, covered with boards kept in position by weighty poles laid across them, and lighted not by glass but through an aperture between the logs, at a convenient height which might be closed for comfort by a plank suspended above it on leather hinged. They had wide chimneys. These houses were furnished with benches without backs, on each of which a dozen or more pupils might sit in close contact.

"School books were scarce, but of divers kinds. Some of the spelling books used had been preserved by the parents, and even the grandparents, of the pupils. For reading every pupil brought to the school such book or books as were found in the family, whether it be Robinson Crusoe, Arabian Nights, the Bible or fragments of it, and anything else, whether it be historical or fictitious, solemn or amusing. Only reading, writing and ciphering as 'far as the rule of three' were taught. This last art was taught by means of a manuscript book belonging to the teacher, in which the arithmetical questions were not only propounded, but the process of their solution was fully recorded in figures. From this source the pupils received their sums, and to this standard it was required their answers so conform. Boys, after toiling days or even weeks over a sum in long division, would go up to the teacher to report their answers, and to hear the appalling words, 'Not Right.' One poor fellow labored three months on a single sum.

"All the scholars looked forward with thrilling interest to the time when the shadow on the door sill of the school house indicated the arrival of meridian. All ears were then attentive to hear the words by which the commencement of the joyous 'play-time' was invariably announced by the schoolmaster: 'Lay by your books.' The amusements of the hour were brought to a close by some boy of strong lungs, commissioned by the master to cry at the top of his voice, 'Come to books.'

The turning out of the master, as it was called, was an institution in all the schools. It occurred on this wise: On the approach of a

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

holiday, the larger boys, acting in concert, would find an opportunity when the master was out of the house to shut the door and refuse to open it until he consented to grant them the desired holiday—a request which, with some show of reluctance and indignation, he was usually glad to concede. Sometimes the scholars would seize the teacher, drag him out of the house, and force him to accede to their demand.

“Another custom, common in that day and region, was called ‘school-butter.’ The term was expressive of ridicule and contempt. A daring boy, or young man, in passing a school, would cry at the top of his voice ‘School-butter, school-butter,’ and repeat the words as long as his voice could be heard by the school. The insult could not be endured for a moment. Instantly books and everything were thrown aside and all the boys of an age to avenge the insult started in pursuit of the offender. If he were on a fleet horse, he might easily make his escape, but if he were on foot, woe unto him. The boys would continue their pursuit for miles and hours, running through fields and climbing fences, and never abandoning it until all hope of capture was gone.”

To this are added extracts from an article written many years ago by Miss Blanche Tolley, who attended these “Old Field Schools” also, who was later a teacher in the public schools of the county:

“A stove in the center of the room was set in a box of sand for safety, with benches placed around it in a square. Only two benches had backs, and fortunate indeed were the earliest arrivals who secured seats on these benches. Two pegs driven in the logs on one side of the room, some distance apart, and inclined slightly to the front, held a long plank, which formed the only writing desk we had, or cared to have. A blackboard we knew not. Slates and pencils were the order of the day, and what lovely pictures we drew when we were supposed to be doing our “sums.”

“Our copy books were made of foolscap paper with brown wrapping paper covers, all stitched together. The copies were ‘set’ by the teacher, and if he wrote a bad hand—which he usually did—we learned that way too. All pens were made of the wing feathers of a goose, sharpened to a point similar in shape to the pen points of today, and split from the point about a half inch up. For this purpose a pocket knife with a very small sharp blade was used. Hence the name, pen knife. In winter we buried our bottles of ink in the sand around the stove to keep them from freezing. We had a wooden water bucket on a shelf by the door with one gourd, from which we all drank. Playtime—oh, the unalloyed joy of it!—when the sun pointed to the twelve o’clock mark on the door. Hot lunches? We did not dream of lunches; we carried cold ‘snacks’—and how good they were! Nothing

THE SCHOOLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY

even now is half so good as those half moon dried apple pies, and no improved apple so delicious as those big red apples the boys slipped into our dinner baskets when we were not supposed to be looking. We traded a piece of pie for a ginger cake, a light roll for an apple, and naught cared we for hot lunches.

"And then the pure delight of a grape vine swing! Or better still, to climb a slender sapling, swing down with it, climb upon it, and then ride up and down to see who could go highest. No automobile ride equals a sapling. We played marbles, ball, hop-sko:ch, 'antny-over' (that may not be spelled correctly, but it is how it sounded) and other games too numerous to mention. There was no school bell, and when the teacher called 'Books' there was a mad scramble for a bench with a back. Sometimes a gallant boy would rush in and secure the coveted seat, and then slyly give it up to his best girl. Oh yes, we had courting couples in those days, certainly we had. Locks of hair woven into heart shapes, big red apples, sticks of peppermint candy, walnuts, chestnuts, verses of 'potry,' and vows of undying love were indiscriminately exchanged when teacher's back was turned—and sometimes when it wasn't, for he was usually young and often in love with one of the big girls... Never can we forget the old Webster's blue back spelling book and the long spelling class which reached nearly around the room. This was the last class before closing time. The one who was 'head' on Friday went 'foot' and got a head mark, and the one who had the most headmarks at the end of school was given a prize by the teacher. On Friday afternoons we had gay times. We girls wore clean stiffly starched aprons and our Sunday 'roach combs', and the boys blacked their shoes and slicked their hair, and we 'spoke pieces'—'The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck,' 'Try Me, Father, Try Me,' 'Maud Muller,' etc. Happy days! Gone, but not forgotten."

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

According to the "Historical Sketch of Bedford County," by R. D. Buford and N. D. Hawkins—the latter Superintendent of Schools of the county—and published in 1907, a substantial four-roomed frame building was erected in Liberty in 1799, which served as Masonic temple, school house, surgeon's office and drug store. So dense was the forest and undergrowth of this locality (now the town of Bedford) that small children were not allowed to go from the school house lest they be lost in the woods.

The following year, 1800, Jonas Irvine taught in a small house later known as "Oakwood." About 1806 Rev. Joseph Flood, a local Methodist preacher, born in Accomac County and educated at the College of William and Mary, opened a school east of the village. His

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

curriculum was the well known "Three R's," supplemented by a fourth —rod—which was no respector of persons, but sometimes the chivalry of the sterner sex averted the impending fate of the feminine victim, and some noble boy became the scapegoat. In later years Mr. Flood moved his school to a place near what is now Moseley's Bridge and conducted an "Academic Coaching School," preparing young men for college. He was author of an arithmetic which was used only in manuscript form, and copied by his pupils. Several of these copies are still in existence in the county, one is in the Bedford County Museum.

For originality and longevity none approached the ABC school of Miss Nancy Thomas in her home on West Main Street in Liberty, in which she combined some of the features of the "old dames' school" of England and those of the modern kindergarten—or even of the "new curriculum"—with her rare common sense and love of children. Her career began as a governess at the age of sixteen, but after a few years, perhaps about 1820, she opened her own school in one of the rooms of her residence.

In her school room was a big feather bed, and it was not uncommon, as the day wore on, to see one or more of her little pupils sound asleep upon its motherly bosom. In the rear of the house was an old fashioned garden devoted to her pupils and her chickens, and as a reward for the best spelling lesson the child was allowed to go out and bring in the fresh-laid egg after the first hen had cackled. Miss Nancy had a kinsman who was an undertaker and, not having need for the upper story of her house, she allowed him to store his caskets there. This was a favorite haunt of the children, and often when they were permitted to go out and play, and some did not return, they would be found "playing dead" in the caskets above. She was justly proud of having taught several generations the rudiments of English, and in spite of the fact that they all studied "out loud," she turned out many good spellers. She closed her school in 1880, when she was 79 years of age, and died six years later. Among her pupils who afterward became distinguished was Martin Parks Burks, Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Following are some excerpts from a sketch of New London Academy written in 1922 by Mrs. Lucy Andrews Talbot, once a teacher in the school:

This historic institution, within one mile of New London, is the oldest secondary school in the State. The charter for New London Academy was granted in 1795 by the General Assembly of Virginia. The following year the trustees were granted the authority to raise by lottery the sum of 10,000 pounds to defray the expense of erecting buildings and establishing a permanent fund for the support of the

THE SCHOOLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY

school.

The Academy was established and operated for years as a private school for young men. The original plant consisted of a square brick building, with class rooms on the first floor and sleeping quarters above, and a principal's house, where the students took their meals. There were servants' quarters, a smoke house and other outbuildings in the yard. Between the school building and the principal's residence stood an Episcopal church, built of brick. After many years this church was torn down and the bricks sold to the Masons, who used them in building a Masonic Lodge across the road from the school.

There are few records of the school available, but some of the most prominent men of the State have been associated with this institution as students, instructors or trustees. From a Secretary's minutes we read that on October 19, 1826, Prof. J. McConnell resigned. Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, afterward Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, accepted the tutorship under promise of twenty students. On September 28, 1830, Mr. Cobbs resigned and was succeeded by Mr. H. L. Davis. There were twenty-two rules and regulations for the tutor's guidance, among them, "At the end of the session there shall be a rigid examination in public of all the students, which shall be published in the Lynchburg newspapers."

In June, 1871, an effort was made to convert the Academy into a free school, but it was found impracticable. In June, 1884, however, the committee reported favorably on the joint running of the Academy with the public school, and the school plant was leased by the Trustees to the Superintendents of Bedford and Campbell Counties for the benefit of all white pupils of the said counties.

At that time Hon. Thomas S. West, treasurer of the Board of Trustees, turned over to the Board of Managers \$6000.00 in State Bonds, the endowment fund from the Chilton estate, and with the accrued interest the Board purchased the Lodge from the Masons to be used as a school building. At this time the Rev. B. W. Moseley was principal.

In 1885, Prof. David Warwick Read was elected principal, and he gave to the school eleven years of faithful and efficient service.

It was largely due to the indefatigable efforts of Maj. R. C. Saunders and J. W. ("Crow") Harris that the Academy was made a public school, and they always showed the keenest interest in everything pertaining to its welfare.

In 1910, by Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, the school plant and endowment fund were turned over to Bedford and Campbell Counties.

New London Academy numbers among her alumni many dis-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

tinguished men, among them, Judge Edward Callohil Burks, Hon. John Goode, Judge J. Callaway Brown, Hon. P. L. Saunders, Lt. Wm. Hutter, killed in the battle between the Virginia and the Monitor, Hon. Thos. S. West, Rev. Chiswold Dabney, Hon. Eugene R. West, and others.

About 1805 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Leftwich opened the first boarding school for girls in the county. The outgrowth of this school was Bedford Female Seminary, conducted by Rev. and Mrs. Vinal Smith, who came here from Schenectady, New York. A catalogue of this school states that the Seminary was opened in 1834. The faculty was composed of Rev. Vinal Smith and his wife, Mrs. Emily E. Smith, Miss Laura Bigelow, assistant in the English department, and Miss Jane Bassett, teacher of music, painting and drawing.

The Rev. Jacob Mitchell succeeded the Smiths as principal of the Bedford Female Seminary and he, in turn, was followed by Edward Johnston, who, in 1839, moved this school to Botetourt Springs, a summer resort of which his uncle, Charles Johnston, had recently been proprietor, and changed its name to "Roanoke Female Seminary." This was the predecessor of Hollins College of today.

In 1847 another school was founded in Bedford which was to play an important part in the education of the youth in both this and surrounding counties. This was Piedmont Institute. Its trustees, Joseph F. Johnson, A. A. Bell, Samuel Hoffman, G. A. Wingfield, and Micajah Davis, appointed by the Legislature March 15, 1847, bought four acres of land from Armistead Otey on top of the hill just east of town, on the south side of the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike, and on it erected a large colonial brick building to be used as an academy for boys. Just when it was finished and ready for occupancy is not definitely known. In 1850 Professor William Peers was principal and William G. Claytor was his assistant. Mr. Sloat, a Presbyterian minister and at one time pastor of the local church, was principal in 1858, and perhaps held this position until the War Between the States, when the school was closed and the building converted into a Confederate hospital.

After the war it was re-opened as a school for girls with the Rev. J. A. Davis as principal. An entry in the diary of Laurie C. Mays, one of its pupils, reads:

"I left for Liberty on the first of April (1868) and went to school at Piedmont Institute. Every fortnight, on Friday night, there was a reception given to the boarders. The Sunny Side boys and girls from town were the invited guests. Sometimes we were permitted to invite one of our friends. Frequently these boys would call at the Institute, but they were not permitted to see any of us."

THE SCHOOLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY

After a few more years the school was permanently closed and the building used as an apartment house. In 1883 the Municipal School Board purchased the property and used it as a school building for the colored children of the town until 1910, when W. L. Lyle bought it and converted it into a residence.

Another institution of learning which had its beginning before the War Between the States was Sunny Side High School for boys, situated about two miles south of Liberty on the Dickerson Mill road. This school was owned and conducted by the Rev. Alexander Eubank, a noted educator of his day. The Bedford Chronicle of August, 1868, says:

"We are informed that Rev. A. Eubank has made a contract with an energetic and reliable mechanic to erect a large two-story building at Sunny Side for the use of his school. The house will be completed in the shortest time possible, and by the first of October there will be accommodations for twenty boarders. The principal, the Rev. A. Eubank, A. M., and W. P. Dickerson, we understand, are making arrangements to place their school on a firm basis and make it in every sense equal to any school for boys and young men in Virginia."

This school continued for more than a quarter of a century.

Mt. Pleasant Academy, on the south side of the county, was another pre-war school. An advertisement in the Bedford Sentinel of July, 1860, reads:

"The next session of my school, Mt. Pleasant Academy, will commence on the third Monday in September. This school is located in a neighborhood proverbial for its healthiness, morality and intelligence. I shall use every reasonable effort to advance those committed to my care, but I do not profess to be able to teach students who will not study. Mahlon A. Hensley, A. M., principal."

In 1885, Mr. David Wade and his cultured family came from Baltimore and opened the Liberty Female Institute on the north east corner of Grove and Lee Streets. Dr. Wade, a practicing physician, taught Latin; Mrs. Wade taught the intermediate department; Miss Willie, the kindergarten; Miss Florence, the advanced pupils; Miss Ida, music; and Miss Hallie, art. The school was never large, but had a very select patronage, and perhaps no teachers in this section ever had quite the refining and uplifting influence upon their pupils as that exerted by this charming and superior family.

RANDOLPH MACON ACADEMY

In 1889, Dr. William W. Smith, then president of Randolph Macon College at Ashland, Virginia, conscious of the need of a preparatory school as a feeder for the college, selected Liberty as a suitable

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

location for such a school, and almost single handed solicited and secured sufficient contributions, here and in other parts of the state, to erect the main building of Randolph Macon Academy and start school in September, 1890.

Professors A. M. Hughlett and E. Sumter Smith were made joint principals, and the enrollment the first year was 138—only a small part of these being Bedford boys. Professor Hughlett remained until 1898.

Professor Smith continued in charge of the school until his health failed in 1922, when he was retired as principal emeritus. "Ole Sump," as he was affectionately called by the boys, was a man of superior character and charming personality, and was a fine disciplinarian. His pupils loved and respected him, and will ever cherish his memory. He was succeeded by Professor William R. Phelps, a native of Bedford County, who continued as principal until 1934, when the school was permanently closed.

During these years another Academy had been established at Front Royal, Virginia, by the Randolph Macon System. This was destroyed by fire, and in its place a modern fireproof building had been erected. As time passed and the high schools of the state increased in number and efficiency, patronage of these academies decreased. This, together with the drought of 1930 and the financial depression, then beginning to be generally felt, reduced the enrollment so materially that the Board of Trustees decided to merge the two schools. The building at Front Royal was chosen, not only because it was modern and fireproof, but because it was situated within the bounds of the Baltimore Conference, from which territory so many of the pupils came. So, in 1933, the Randolph Macon building in Bedford was closed.

This was a tremendous blow both to the town and county. This academy had drawn its patronage from every state of the Union and from several foreign countries, and was known far and wide for the excellence of its scholarship and its splendid moral training. It had contributed much to the social and business life of Bedford during its 43 years of existence, as well as having exerted an educational and cultural influence upon the entire community. Being a preparatory school, the boys were very young, and many of them did their first "calicoing" in Bedford, while the first beaux of the girls in town were usually Academy boys. The social event of the year for all of these was the "Field Day Reception," when every student appeared with his best girl—if he had been fortunate enough during the year to claim one. Cupid was not absent upon these occasions, and many an Academy boy—as well as some of the teachers—returned to Bedford for his wife.

THE SCHOOLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY

The establishment of Randolph Macon Academy here gave a great impetus to education in Bedford. The Presbyterians, having at this time so much talent, teaching experience and ability among their number, made plans at once for the founding of a girls' school, with the result that in a short time they had secured the residence and spacious grounds of Dr. John W. Sale, and had begun the erection of a handsome brick building where the Bedford High School now stands. This they called Belmont Seminary, and it was opened in September, 1890, though the building was not yet completed.

The faculty was composed entirely of members of the local Presbyterian church, with the exception of the teacher of voice. Professor James R. Guy, who had been principal of the local public school for eighteen years, was made principal of the Seminary, and the Liberty Female Institute, the faculty of which—Dr. and Mrs. David Wade and their daughters—were members of this church, was merged in the Seminary, with its teachers becoming members of the Belmont faculty. Mrs. Wade was matron, Miss Florence assistant principal, Miss Willie taught the kindergarten and Miss Hallie, art. Miss Junia A. Graves taught mathematics and the sciences. Professor Frederick von Roy was head of the music department with Miss Augusta Graves and Miss Ida Wade his assistants.

This school had an existence of only eight years. The property was then leased by Professor James E. Wamsley, who taught a small school for one year. He was followed by Professor and Mrs. D. W. Read, who continued the school a few years longer. The building was then sold and the auditorium converted into an opera house.

When "The Academy" and "Belmont" started so successfully the Baptists of the state became aroused as to the possibilities of Bedford as an educational center, and they too decided to establish a girls' school here. This they built on the hill just west of town, and named it Jeter Female Institute, in honor of Rev. Jeremiah Bell Jeter, D. D., the distinguished Baptist preacher, who was a native of this county.

This school was opened in September, 1892, with Professor A. Poindexter Taylor as principal, but unfortunately it could not withstand the financial panic then spreading over the country, and was forced to close its doors at Thanksgiving of the following year. The building was later leased by the county for a high school, but this was not a popular venture and did not continue many years.

In 1900, Messrs. William A., Don E., and Joseph N. Parker leased the building and established the Bedford Co-operative School, with Prof. D. W. Read as principal and Mrs. Mary Beaufort as lady principal. This school was in successful operation for twelve years with a total enrollment of more than one thousand students. The

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

object of its founders was to furnish a practical means of education at the least possible cost, and this was done without endowment or other outside aid. The tuition charges paid the salaries of the teachers and board was furnished at cost. The course offered was that of an accredited high school with added facilities for two years of college work. Music and art were included in the curriculum.

By 1912, high schools were springing up in this and adjoining counties and the patronage of this school declined. About this time the Elks decided that the old Hotel Bedford in which their National Home was housed, not being fireproof and not meeting their needs in other ways, was no longer suitable for their purpose. Cities all over the country offered attractive sites and other inducements for the new building, but Bedford, determined to hold it if possible, offered to furnish a home for the "brothers" while the new building was being erected, provided it were re-built upon the site of the old one. This offer was accepted and the "Jeter Building" secured by the town for this purpose. The residents of the home then numbered only 60 and they were very comfortably provided for during their stay of two years on "Jeter Hill." The Jeter building was subsequently razed and the grounds sold for building lots.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Constitution of Virginia was formed by the Convention of December 3, 1867, and ratified by the people in July, 1869. In Section III it provides by law a uniform system of free schools. In 1870, the Legislature of Virginia passed an Act "to establish and maintain a uniform system of Public Free Schools as required by the Constitution."

Bedford's first County School Trustees were the Hon. John A. Wharton, Judge of the Bedford County Court; Lauriston A. Sale, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sidney L. Dunton, County Supt. of Schools.

The county was originally divided into seven School Districts and school trustees elected as follows:

1. Liberty—Col. William Graves, James S. Woolfork, W. W. Jopling, Henry C. Lowry.
2. Lisbon—Maj. Cornelius Pate, Albert W. Ewing, Capt. James H. Buford, Capt. N. C. Luck.
3. Chamblissburg—Fielding H. Jeter, Chas. O. Graham, Dr. John W. Ferguson, Dr. Edmund Sale.
4. Staunton—Capt. E. C. Cundiff, W. D. Ashwell, Maj. W. F. Graves, J. Whit Johnson, Capt. C. C. Peters, M. P. Rucker.
5. Otter—Ambrose C. Rucker, C. T. Andrews, W. G. Claytor,

THE SCHOOLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Thomas J. Phelps, A. G. Hillsman, Dr. G. L. Brown.

6. Charlemont—Paul Penn, H. D. Poindexter, Thomas N. Turpin, William P. Burks, John Milton White.

7. Forest—Edward Sextus Hutter, N. D. Hawkins, James W. Harris, F. H. Harris, Capt. E. N. Wise, Samuel McDaniel, Henry Hubbard.

In 1872, the Municipal School District was formed, including the corporate limits of Liberty and a certain belt of territory encircling the corporate limits. Its trustees were Dr. C. A. Board, Dr. John W. Sale, Col. William Graves, John W. Johnston.

Later, Bellevue Magisterial and School District was formed from Charlemont, Forest and Otter Districts, with C. M. Gibbs, E. R. Talbot and E. C. Burnett as trustees.

This representation has been changed, and today each district has only one trustee, and these together form the County School Board.

At first every school had just one room and one teacher, who sometimes had as many as 60 pupils, ranging in ages from five to 21 years, but as population and interest in education increased more rooms were added to some of these buildings and more teachers employed, some schools having as many as five rooms, and as many teachers. Then came the high schools and the consolidation of many of the elementary schools, with buses to transport the children who lived at too great a distance to walk.

In 1936, the Randolph Macon Academy building was purchased by the county, remodeled to meet state requirements, and opened in September of that year as a model elementary school, all instruction being based upon the "Revised Curriculum," then being disseminated throughout the state. This school is called Liberty Academy.

The school in town, of which J. R. Guy was principal for 35 years, and J. L. Borden has been principal since 1917, has had steady growth. It was first located on a lot near the railroad, just east of the bridge, then moved to a lot running through from Lee Street to Longwood Avenue, upon which a much larger building was erected. This was added to from time to time until it became necessary to have even larger quarters.

In 1912, the residence of the family of the late Col. William Graves was purchased, moved across the street, and the present elementary school building erected upon the site. This took care of the school comfortably for nearly twenty years, but as automobiles came into use and the county roads were improved, more and more children from the rural districts began to take advantage of the superior opportunities offered by this school, and again it was necessary to ex-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

pand the accommodations.

The old Belmont Seminary property had been acquired by the town some years before and some of the rooms had been used for class rooms, but by 1928 the building was in such a state of dilapidation that it was no longer safe, and it was torn down, a bond issue floated, and the present high school building erected.

For the formal opening of this building a pageant, entitled "School Days," written by Mrs. George P. Parker and directed by Mrs. J. K. Walker, was witnessed by an overflow house. This pageant depicted the history of the school from its beginning.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Travel: Turnpikes, Canals, Taverns

The first mode of travel in this part of Virginia, other than on foot, was by water, as was true of all other sections where the streams were large enough to float any sort of craft. Then came the pack horse, which carried all the possessions of the pioneer, while he and his family walked alongside until a suitable location was found to clear land and build a log cabin. Ox carts and covered wagons were introduced as soon as trails could be made passable for them. As these trails were improved, family carriages and stage coaches began to appear; and the people were then able to travel with comparative comfort and safety.

Wagons, drawn by either horses or oxen, were used for all hauling except tobacco which had been prized in hogsheads. These hogsheads were "rolled to market" by horses or oxen hitched to them by means of wooden pins driven into heads of the hogsheads, which served as axles for the crude shafts. The driver walked by the side.

"Bramlett's Road" is the first road of importance mentioned in the county records. This was an east-to-west thoroughfare passing through New London and what was later the town of Liberty, and on to the Botetourt County line. It was probably the same route as that followed by the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike, built in the early 1830's, and practically the same, from Bedford to Roanoke, as State Highway 460 of today. Taverns and "ordinaries" were located on this road at intervals convenient for "wagoners" and stage coaches. The Fincastle Stage Coach Turnpike, also built in the early days of the county and kept up by fees paid by travelers and vehicles using it, branched off from Bramlett's Road just beyond what is now Montvale. An interesting history of this old road, written by Jefferson Herbert of that vicinity, appeared in the Bedford Democrat a few years ago. From this the following is taken:

"The Stage-Road proper was in the extreme northwestern section of the county, winding over the Blue Ridge from Buford's Tavern, passing the 'Toll House,' or Tavern of the Black Horse, and terminating at Obenchain's Tavern between Lithia and Fincastle, in the Shenandoah Valley. The turnpike continued from Buford's Tavern east to Liberty, and from Obenchain's Tavern northwest to Fincastle and White Sulphur Springs; thence the traveler continued

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

into the wilds of the west on foot, and sometimes on horseback.

"Stages loaded with passengers and carrying mail came from the Shenandoah Valley to the crest of the Blue Ridge, where it entered Bedford County. Dropping down the mountain a quarter-mile, the stage coach came to a rest on a protected shelf of the great mountains at the Tavern of the Black Horse. Here horses were exchanged, travelers refreshed themselves at the fine spring (or with the memorable drinks of the day), and if the hour was too early to partake of food in the tavern, they continued on to Buford's Tavern down in the valley. In this event the keeper of the Tavern of the Black Horse climbed an up-shooting ledge of brown stone and sounded a strident stage horn, so that Paschal Buford, down at Buford's Tavern, might know how many chickens to toss into the frying pan and just the number of biscuits to fling into the great oven.

"The unknowing traveler wondered in amazement when he arrived . . . and discovered a perfect lay-out of food, steaming hot, in the vast beamed dining room of the Tavern . . . Who knows but that this stage road was the necessary article in the development of those states between us and the Mississippi In the summer months it is obscured by heavy foliage, but in the autumn and months of bleak winter it stands out in relief, a jagged, yellowish-brown scar; probably resting there on the mountain side, content with its contribution to civilization, but, like all old and useless things, neglected and forgotten."

The above story was written before the Citizens Civilian Conservation Camps of the Roosevelt Administration came into existence. In 1935 this road was cleared of loose rocks and debris by members of the CCC Camp at Kelso and put in condition for travel again. The route had been so well laid out originally that engineers in charge of the restoration could not improve the grade or general direction.

Later research has proved that Mr. Herbert was mistaken in the name of the tavern on top of the mountain. It was located upon the original grant of land to Captain Henry Buford. A part of this grant was sold to David T. Thaxton in 1863 and the deed states that on this tract was located the toll house known as "Mountain Gate."

Ruins of the chimneys, foundations, rock fences, etc., are on a flat area to the east of the road, and there is a bold spring a short distance away. Some of the fruit trees and garden flowers still bloom in the rich earth over a space of about five acres. This is the dividing point between the Lynchburg and the Roanoke tracts of the two Appalachian Trail Clubs.

The Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike, heretofore mentioned, was the main artery of travel until the coming of the automobile. It then

TRAVEL: TURNPIKES, CANALS, TAVERNS

became necessary to have a smoother road, and a new route, by way of Forest, was chosen and a state highway, hard-surfaced but crooked, was constructed as far as the town of Bedford. In 1928-29 it was continued to Roanoke to connect with the Lee Highway, thus placing Bedford within easy reach of both Lynchburg and Roanoke.

Besides Buford's Tavern, at "Locust Level," there were other hostleries along the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike. In those days taverns, frequently by wagoners, seldom furnished beds for their use. The men carried their own blankets, and in winter they would lie on the floor in a semi-circle, with their feet to a roaring fire, and sleep the sleep of the just.

Following the old turnpike, about three miles east of town was the ancient Merriman's Tavern, built by Edward Merriman in 1821 and operated by him for many years. Here, too, the stage coaches stopped to exchange horses and to rest and refresh their passengers. The county records show that licenses were granted to prominent men in various sections of the county to conduct ordinaries (eating houses), one to Stephen Goggin, whose residence, built about the time of the Revolution, stood near Body Camp. (This house was destroyed by fire in 1949.)

At New London was Echols' Tavern, older and perhaps more pretentious than those mentioned, since, in the early days of the county, New London was the most important town in all this section.

While the pioneers in the center of the county were cutting trails and building roads, those in the northern and southern boundaries were using the rivers for transportation. In 1786 the James River Company was chartered, with George Washington as its first president. One hundred shares of stock were awarded him in appreciation of his interest in organizing the enterprise. These he declined for his personal use, and, instead, gave them to Liberty Hall—now Washington and Lee University. Washington and Lee University today receives an annual income for Washington's stock from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, a direct descendant of the James River Company.

The purpose of the company was to make the river navigable for boats drawing one foot of water from the highest practical point to the Great Falls at Westham, and from the falls to construct such canals and locks as would be sufficient to open navigation to Tidewater. For a time the James River Company prospered, but after some years business decreased, and complaints were made that the privately owned company was not fulfilling its contract, and so it came about that in 1820 it was taken over by the state.

A few years later the James River and Kanawha Canal Company

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

was incorporated. This company was charged with the duty of connecting the tidewater of James River with the navigable waters of the Ohio River. Three divisions were contemplated: Richmond to Lynchburg; Lynchburg to Buchanan (then called Paxtonsburg); and the Lexington division. The canal between Richmond and Lynchburg was completed in 1840, and between Lynchburg and Buchanan in 1851. About seventeen miles of this latter division was in Bedford County.

The Sesqui-Centennial issue of the Lynchburg News (October 11, 1936) carried the following:

"As late as 1860 the canal did a thriving business. At that time it was the greatest passenger and freight carrier in Virginia. It was fashionable, as well as convenient and comfortable, to ride on the packets, and their speed, between six and eight miles an hour, was far greater than that of the finest family teams over the rough, narrow and winding roads of the time. Expert in the care and handling of teams, their drivers prided themselves on the looks, performance, endurance, and speed of their animals. Hitched in tandem, they pranced along the tow-path at a brisk trot, and were rarely fagged when relieved at the end of their sections. The approach to stations was heralded by a melodious blast from a long metal horn, on which the drivers had learned to blow notes of the popular songs, such as 'Molly Darling' and 'Seeing Nellie Home.'

"The packets were luxurious, the decks spacious and comfortable The food was incomparable; the bar a thing of variety and joy to be marveled at. Life was tranquil; the wild necessity of speed had not asserted itself.

"But the support of the James River and Kanawha Canal actually came from the humble freight boats, tolls from which filled the coffers of the company, and to them belonged no little of the romance of the river. Their motive power consisted of mules working in alternate shifts. One pair rested and fed in stalls aboard the boat, while the other stepped along the tow-path. The freight boat captains were a tough lot, but were stout of heart, loyal and foursquare in their dealings.

"The golden era of the upper James, however, was short-lived. The prosperity of the canal began to wane in the years following 1860, and in 1880 its properties were sold at auction to the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad.

"The task of transforming a tow-path into a railway began immediately and progressed with amazing speed. Section by section the rails were laid, and soon puffing screaming steam engines glided up to the stations, and were welcomed at the old boat landings with wild

TRAVEL: TURNPIKES, CANALS, TAVERNS

enthusiasm, not unmixed with fear and doubt, especially by the oldest inhabitants, prejudiced against modern contrivances."

A story of unusual interest concerning one of these old packet boats was written many years ago by Mrs. Ellen Davis Gregory of Bedford, and was published in the Lynchburg News. Titled "The Houseboat on the James," it follows:

"Within the sight of passing trains of the James River Branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Southern Railways, modestly nestled beneath the trees upon the banks of the river, stands an old batteau that has been converted into a home—a houseboat on land, that has a history of which some splendid warship might be justly proud. For this old boat, now fast falling to decay, had the distinguished honor of bearing the remains of General Thomas J. Jackson from Lynchburg to his final resting place in Lexington.

"Perhaps to the present generation the words 'canal boat' convey a very slight idea of its construction, appearance, and mode of propulsion. But in memory of many persons now living there were no modes of traveling in Virginia save by canal boats, stage coaches and private conveyances, and until 1878, when the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad was constructed, Lexington, the Athens of Virginia, was inaccessible to the outside world except by the waterway of the canal, known as the James River and Kanawha Canal, or the romantic old stage coach, with its four dignified steeds and important looking driver, who skillfully handled the ribbons and waked the echoes with his resounding horn.

"A journey on the canal is an experience to be treasured in memory. To sit all day upon the deck of the long, low boat, luxuriously at ease, while the mules trot cheerfully along the tow-path, drawing the staunch craft upon the waveless waters between the narrow banks, and the horn of the driver, from time to time, sends forth the mournful note of signal for the locks, while the superb scenery, that all along the route is unfolded to view, was an enjoyment without the tantalizing fleetness that characterizes travel by steam or electricity. What an absorbing interest there was when the locks were raised and the keeper came out and filled, or let out, the water, according as the boat was ascending or descending the river, and opened or shut the ponderous gates, and one experienced the queer sensation of slowly rising or falling with the water!

"The boat of this sketch was built in Richmond in 1861, christened the 'Marshall,' and put in command of Captain J. B. Keffer, of Buchanan . . . It is said to have been partially burned by General Hunter upon his memorable raid across the Blue Ridge mountains, but was afterward raised and repaired and kept in a service until the rail-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

road company purchased the canal.

"When tidings of the death of Stonewall Jackson, the genius and inspiration of the war, descended like a pall upon the struggling Southland, arrangements were made to convey the remains to his home in Lexington, and the 'Marshal' was selected as the boat which should bear the gallant soldier to his final earthly repose in classic Lexington, that was later to receive also the sacred ashes of the commander-in-chief of the Confederacy.

"Wednesday afternoon, May 13, 1863, the funeral train, bearing all that was mortal of the most brilliant officer among the many heroes of the 'Lost Cause,' arrived in Lynchburg on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and a great concourse of citizens, headed by the mayor, Mr. William D. Branch, repaired to the station to receive it. All business in the the Hill City was suspended, minute guns were fired, and the bells of all the churches were solemnly tolled. The casket, containing the sacred form, was reverently placed in a hearse, and a long and imposing procession was formed, and, to the sound of solemn music, booming of cannon, and tolling of bells, marched through the principal streets of the city A memorable feature of the procession was the participation of fifteen hundred or more convalescent soldiers quartered in the city, many of whom had fought under Jackson.

"After the sad parade had completed its march through the city, the remains, accompanied by a distinguished escort, Mrs. Jackson and her daughter, were placed upon the 'Marshall,' and as the gloaming descended the barge slowly moved off and glided onward all night, arriving at Lexington next morning about sunrise. The cadets of the Virginia Military Institute and a great assemblage of citizens awaited its coming. The casket was placed upon a caisson and drawn by cadets to the Institute, in which he had been a distinguished instructor and where appropriate services were conducted.

"He was laid to rest in the cemetery with military honors amid the tears of his fellow citizens and cadets, who proved themselves worthy of their great preceptor at the memorable battle of New Market. He sleeps the sleep that knows no waking beneath the over-reaching branches of the trees, for the refreshing shade of which he seemed to long, as, in fevered utterances of his last hours on earth, he murmured, 'Let us pass over the river and rest under the shade of the trees.'"

The first railroad in the county, now the Norfolk and Western, was built between 1850 and 1858. The first unit, from Petersburg to Lynchburg, was finished in 1854 and called the Southside Railroad. The second unit, from Lynchburg to Bristol, was finished in 1856 and called the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. In 1858 a third unit,

TRAVEL: TURNPIKES, CANALS, TAVERNS

from Petersburg to Norfolk, was completed and called the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad. Until 1870 all three of these roads were owned and operated separately. In that year they merged their main lines and branches and became the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, with General William Mahone as president. In 1881 the A. M & O. was purchased by the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which in 1896 was re-organized as the Norfolk and Western Railway Company.

The coming of the first train to Liberty was indeed a gala occasion. A crowd gathered from miles around, coming by every sort of conveyance. They filled all points of vantage and lined the tracks on both sides. When the puffing monster appeared it consisted of three small coaches and an engine with a tall smokestack. Wood was used for fuel and fed into the firebox by hand.

This was originally a narrow gauge road, but as transportation increased it became necessary to widen the track. In order to accomplish this as quickly as possible, all trains were stopped and large forces of hands put to work all along the line, with the result that the entire job was completed in one day and the workmen paid off that night.

In 1905 the Virginian Railway was built from the coal regions of West Virginia to Norfolk. This line passes through the extreme southern part of the county near the Staunton River and affords transportation and shipping facilities for all that section.

Before the invention of the automobile the two turnpikes, previously mentioned, were the only hard-surfaced roads in the county, and in midwinter, when the weather was bad, travel was almost impossible. Sunday schools and church services were often suspended during extreme weather, and the only communication had by those living in remote places was an occasional trip to the post office or the cross roads store.

In 1903 the first automobile appeared on the streets of Bedford. R. C. (Cator) Ragland, a native of the town, slipped away and purchased this car and drove it back. He seldom used it, but would never part with it—not even when Henry Ford tried to secure it for his collection of "antiques." When he died in 1935 it was found in the basement of his store. One by one others began to purchase cars. It was not unusual in those days to see amateur drivers backing, turning around, and otherwise familiarizing themselves with their machines on the less frequented roads and the great open spaces.

Good roads, automobiles, and electricity have revolutionized life in the rural districts; and it is now possible for the farmer not only to have city conveniences in his home, but to enjoy the pleasures of the city, because of its accessibility.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Before the days of post offices all mail was carried by hand, even to distant states. When post offices were established and mail brought to them for distribution two or three times a week, a new era in communication had really begun, even though many people had to go many miles to the post offices. Any urgent news was carried by a messenger on horseback, or sent from house to house.

Then came the free mail delivery. In town the mail was delivered at every door. In the rural districts it was only necessary to place a mail box at the nearest point on the carrier's route for each family to receive mail daily by simply going to the box.

In the 1860's the telegraph came to Liberty. Messages could then be sent from place to place by wire and ticked out on paper by dots and dashes at their destination. This was followed by the telephone, even more wonderful, since with this the voice of the speaker could be heard. About the time of the boom (1890) several telephones were installed in Bedford, but not enough to make it profitable for the telephone company. They were all removed except those at the tobacco factory of Clark & Co., the passenger station, the telegraph office, and one livery stable. These were maintained by the telephone company in order to hold its charter. About 1902 T. W. Richardson, editor of the Bedford Bulletin, interested the Board of Trade in making an effort to secure a telephone system for the town. Fifty subscribers were secured at once and the present system installed. Soon rural lines began to spring up, and today all of the most populous sections of the county can be reached by telephone.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Social Life in Old Bedford

A study of the records indicates that there were in Bedford County, at the time of its formation, probably 150 to 200 plantations of varying sizes. Five hundred acres was a small plantation, 1,000 to 2,000 acres being the average, and some included as much as 10,000 to 15,000 acres. At least one, "Pebbleton," home of Nicholas Davies, had 33,000 acres.

The owners of the largest plantation and the greatest number of slaves filled all important offices of the county, such as justice of the peace, sheriff, commonwealth's attorney, county surveyor, county clerk, church warden and vestryman, member of the House of Burgesses, etc. Some of these offices were almost hereditary, especially that of county clerk, which was held by members of the same family for more than one hundred years.

The manors of these "gentlemen," known also as "squires," were situated, when possible, upon high elevations which commanded extensive views of the surrounding country. Whether these sites were chosen for enjoyment of the beautiful scenery thereabout or to better discern the approach of Indians is a matter of conjecture. These residences were not as large as those of the more thickly settled parts of eastern Virginia, the number of rooms averaging only six or seven. Kitchens and dining rooms were either in the basement or the kitchen in a building outside and the dining room on the first floor of the dwelling. The latter plan was most frequently used.

Each manor had its "smoke house," where hams, shoulders, bacon and beef were cured; its "spring house," in which cold running water supplied refrigeration for the milk and butter; and an "ice house," sunk 8 to 10 feet in the ground and filled with ice from a pond on the plantation. The ice was covered to a depth of three or four feet with oak leaves, piled up in the fall and kept for this purpose. There was also a store room in which were kept quantities of flour, meal, molasses, sugar, tea, coffee, preserves, apple butter, cheese, dried fruits, etc. Potatoes, apples and cabbage were buried in shallow pits and covered first with straw and then with earth.

Cabins for the slaves who worked the fields were placed at convenient locations over the plantation, and "quarters" for those who

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

worked in and about the house were near the residence. All of these were built chiefly of logs, though sometimes when bricks for the dwelling were made on the ground, the quarters also were built of the same.

Every big plantation had an overseer, whose duty was to supervise the work of the slaves. The owner rode about his plantation, advising with his overseer; sat in judgment on slave quarrels and passed sentence upon the guilty; attended to the affairs of county and parish; and increased his acreage whenever possible, so that he might leave big estates to each of his children, who sometimes numbered as many as a score. He seldom had only one wife. Pioneer life was too strenuous for a woman to live to be old, and the life of a widower with a young family almost forced him to a second, and even a third, marriage.

The mistress of the manor had many duties to perform, even though she had slaves at her command. She planned the meals for her family and, with her basket of keys on her arm, she made daily visits to the store room and smoke house to issue supplies to the cook; she issued rations weekly to the families of slaves who lined up with baskets and sacks for their portions; she supervised the spinning, weaving, sewing, and mending for her family and the slaves; the making of hominy, sauerkraut, soap and candles; the drying of fruits and corn; the shelling and storing of beans and peas; the making of dyes and liniments; and the preparation of herbs and roots for medicine. She was also the plantation doctor, going from cabin to cabin to minister to those who were sick. "Mammy," the beloved nurse of the white children, was usually more intelligent than the other negroes and was of great assistance in directing the work of the women.

On the smaller plantations, where slaves were fewer, cooperation between landowners was necessary. When a new house was to be built, all the men of the neighborhood came together, cut the logs from the forest and, when on a hillside, rolled them to where they would be accessible to wagon and team. Then all took part in building the residence, which, within a few days, was ready for occupancy. While this was in progress the women prepared sumptuous meals for the workmen, and when the day was done all made merry together.

In those days there were no means of lighting the houses except with candles—"tallow dips," they were called. These were made at home of melted tallow poured into pewter molds, in which wicks of soft cotton threads had been inserted. They were then plunged into cold water to harden. These were placed in candlesticks and lighted from the fire with a lightwood splinter or a paper "candle-lighter."

SOCIAL LIFE OF OLD BEDFORD

On every mantel was seen a china vase filled with these candle-lighters. They were made of strips of white paper—usually writing paper—an inch wide and about twelve inches long, rolled diagonally into a tube about the size of a pencil and turned down at the larger end to secure it. One candle was often the only illumination of the room in which all the reading, sewing and knitting were done. In winter, lightwood and pine knots were burned in the open fireplace for illumination, and many a boy, who afterward became an eminent scholar, pored over his books while stretched full length upon the floor in front of these blazing chunks.

Before the invention of matches the problem of creating a spark with which to light the fire was a difficult one. A flint struck with a heavy stick, or two pieces of stone quickly struck together, produced a spark for which splinters or "punk" had to be in readiness. Fire thus started was carefully guarded and covered with ashes when not needed. Neighbors often borrowed fire from each other to start their own, hence the old saying, when one has made a short visit, "You must have come for a chunk of fire!"

The introduction of kerosene oil as a means of illumination was a tremendous step forward, and lamps were considered a great luxury. Only in comparatively late years has this oil been used for heating purposes.

The well-to-do families owned slaves who did the manual labor on the plantations and in the homes. They lived in "slave quarters" near the manor houses and were supplied with provisions from the pantry, dairy and smokehouse of their masters. A cook, chambermaid, nurse—called "Mammy" by the children—and a maid for each of the ladies in the family were to be found in these homes. The men served as butlers, stable boys and gardeners and worked the farms and helped with the mills, the blacksmith shops, etc. These Negroes were often faithful and devoted servants, idolizing "Ole Marster" and "Ole Miss," and being ever proud of "Young Marster" and "Young Mistis" and all the "white chillun" of the family.

Before the invention of machines the methods of accomplishing work on the plantations were primitive indeed. Corn was grown in large quantities for both man and beast. Corn meal was made by beating the corn in large wooden mortars, and hominy was made by soaking the corn in strong lye water to remove the husks. Wheat was the second largest crop grown. The seed were sown by hand and the grain harvested with a reap hook. The wheat was separated from the chaff by beating it with hickory flails. These were made by pounding the big end of a hickory pole until it was flattened and lumber for about two feet. The wheat was then cleaned by pour-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

ing it from one sheet to another when the wind was strong enough to blow the chaff from it.

The introduction of the cradle for harvesting was a decided advance. The wheat was then tied in bundles and laid on a treading floor in a large circle with the heads turned inward. Horses were driven over it until the grain was separated from the straw and then it was passed through a fan to clear it of chaff and dust. A boon indeed was the reaper invented by Cyrus McCormick of the neighboring county, Rockbridge, and equally so was the threshing machine, which at first was operated entirely by horse power.

Cotton was grown in Bedford County in these early days, and tedious hand processes were employed to convert it into condition for spinning and weaving. Every home had a spinning wheel and a loom with which cotton, wool and flax were spun and woven into cloth, either by the women of the family or by slaves specially trained for this work.

A very durable cloth was made from flax. The seed of the flax were sown broadcast and when ripe the flax was pulled up, tied in bundles and dried. The seed were then taken out and the flax spread on the ground until well rotted, after which it was broken in a flax brake, swindled and hackled. These processes separated the fine from the coarse fibres, the fine being called linen, and the coarse called tow. Cloth was made of both grades of fibre, the linen being bleached and used for table cloths, sheets, women's dresses, men's suits, etc.

The coarsest of the tow was used for making ropes, but the better quality was made into an unbleached cloth which was used for men's work shirts, "everyday" towels and bed-ticking. The last, when filled with wheat straw, made fairly comfortable beds, and were often used underneath those made of feathers to protect them from the cords with which the bedsteads were held together and which served as both slats and springs. Many of these feather beds have been handed down from generation to generation and can be found today in many of the old homes of the county.

Sheep were raised, sheared and the wool carded, spun, knit into socks for the men and stockings for the women and children, and woven into blankets, "yarn counterpanes" and wearing apparel for all members of the family. The men felt quite well groomed in suits of "homespun," every stitch of which—both weaving and sewing—had been done by their wives, while the women wore their handiwork with equal grace and satisfaction.

But back to the "good times": Molasses boilings were among the social events of the neighborhood. Molasses was made, as today, from cane, called sorghum, and during war times was the only "sweeten-

SOCIAL LIFE OF OLD BEDFORD

ing" to be had; so it was necessary that every planter grow a little "patch" of sorghum. When the cane was ripe the juice was extracted and all the young people within reach were invited to the boiling. A big copper kettle was hung over a fire out of doors and the juice put on to boil early in the day. Along toward night, as the molasses began to thicken, the crowd began to gather, and soon to prevent scorching it became necessary to stir the syrup constantly. Now a big paddle, attached at right angles to a six foot pole, was produced, and the boys and girls paired off for the stirring, each couple taking its turn.

Apple butter boilings were conducted in the same manner. Cider had been made and apples pared and all put on to boil before the arrival of the guests. Spices, molasses and sugar were added and the whole cooked to the proper consistency out of doors, the young people stirring in couples, as before. A feast and frolic always followed. sometimes only games, and sometimes, at the homes of the very worldly, a square dance was enjoyed.

Another favorite entertainment among the ladies was the quilting party. Every thrifty housewife must have stacks and stacks of quilts, and every young girl must begin her "hope chest" with these very necessary articles of home-furnishing. Long winter evenings and odd moments during the days were spent in "piecing" these quilts, which when finished were stretched in frames, filling and lining secured in place and the whole made ready for the party. Guests were invited to come early in the morning and bring scissors and thimbles. As the work progressed the frames were loosened and the sides rolled, from time to time, so that the central part of the quilt might be reached. As each was finished and taken from the frame, as many laughing, struggling lassies as possible were caught within its folds, the tradition being that each thus captured would be a bride within a year. In the evening the husbands and sweethearts of the quilters joined them in feasting, dancing and general merry-making.

Corn shuckings—or husking bees, as they were called in other sections—were equally popular with the men. When the corn crop had been gathered and placed in a long pile in the barn, all the men of the neighborhood were invited to the shucking, the slaves joining them after the day's work was done. The men discussed their successes and failures and discoursed upon the topics of the day, while the negroes sang "corn songs" until the work was done. The negroes then lifted the host to their shoulders and carried him twice around the barn, singing, "Round up the corn pile and pass around the jug," after which they all repaired to the house for the feast which followed, the white men being served in the dining room and the neg-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

roes in the kitchen, and the "jug passed around" to all.

But the big social events were the weddings. For these occasions sometimes the house was decorated with boughs of cedar which had been dampened and dipped in flour and was illuminated with tallow candles in the handsome old brass candlesticks, so much prized today. The hour for the ceremony was usually "early candle light." White Swiss muslin was a favorite material for the wedding dress and also for those of the bridesmaids, all of which were made with high waists, full skirts, high necks and long sleeves. After the ceremony a wedding feast was served, when the centerpiece for the table was built up in tiers sloping to a mere point at the top. These tiers, made of thin pieces of wood, were edged with white paper cut in fancy scallops and a candle placed in each of the four corners, the tiers rising one above the other about the height of a candle. The bride and groom and their attendants—then called waiters—spent the night at the home of the bride, and the next morning she donned her "second day's dress" and her bridesmaids silk dresses of various colors and after breakfast all left for the home of the groom, the newly married couple riding in a buggy, if one could be procured, and the waiters going on horseback, the ladies carrying needed raiment in carpet bags hung on the pommels of their saddles. At the groom's home the "in-fare" was held and the merry-making continued for another day and night.

Long visits were the order of the day, friends and relatives often staying for weeks at a time when they had come from a distance. Neighbors constantly spent the day with each other, arriving without special invitation early in the morning, bringing some light handiwork to employ the time and remaining until late in the afternoon—in the evening, it was called then. From noon until dark was "evening," and from that time until dawn was night. As soon as the hostess spied her guests arriving she would grab the broom and sweep up any trash to be seen on the floor, brush back her hair, snatch up a clean apron and meet them at the stile. After greetings and surprises had been expressed and the guests had removed bonnets and shawls and were comfortably seated she would then betake herself to the kitchen and spend the remainder of the morning preparing the "company meal," always served at 12 o'clock, and have no time for the entertainment of her guests until after every dish had been washed and put in its place. A visit was never complete without some form of refreshment being served. Upon such occasions no thought was given to a balanced diet, but some of everything available was placed upon the table, a scant table signifying poverty. Often it was simply cake and wine, or, on a hot day, an ice cold mint julep was

SOCIAL LIFE OF OLD BEDFORD

offered, always something. At Christmas time neighborhood dinings were greatly enjoyed, whole families spending the days together until each had entertained all the others. This was especially done by relatives living near each other.

Until nearly 100 years ago all cooking was done in pots, ovens and skillets on the open fireplace. A crane was built in the side of the chimney or a horizontal bar was placed across the fireplace, from either of which was suspended, by means of pot hooks, an iron pot in which all food that had to be boiled was cooked. Breads, cakes, pies, etc., were baked in an iron oven with legs, and an iron top with upstanding rim. Red hot coals were raked from the fireplace and some put underneath the oven and some on top of it. By this means the heat inside was kept at the proper temperature, and no salt rising bread or pound cake baked in the electric stoves of today surpassed those of that day cooked in this primitive manner.

Coffee was bought in the green state, parched and ground in a hand mill. It was then boiled in a pot set on a trivet over hot coals.

For a company meal—breakfast, dinner or supper—the table was set with a white linen cloth, often hand woven, with a silver castor for a centerpiece. Between this and the hostess were placed two large footed glass dishes, with tops, for two kinds of preserves, or one for preserves and the other for honey, and opposite these was a fancy print of butter, sometimes in the shape of a duck, in a glass covered dish; and in small dishes here and there were jellies, sweetmeats, of every variety afforded by the pantry. A huge home-cured ham always graced one end of the table and a roasted hen or big platter of fried chicken the other, while meats of all other varieties available were also included in the menu. Equally abundant were the vegetables and fruits, and the dessert was scant indeed when only two kinds each of pie and cake were served. At Christmas boiled custard, "spiked" liberally with apple brandy, and pound cake were a favorite dessert.

It was necessary that such dishes as mentioned above should have lids, for in those days there were no screens in either doors or windows and it took one person's time to shoo the flies from the table during the meal. This was sometimes done with a small limb of a tree or shrub, called a "fly-bush," from which all leaves had been stripped except those near the end, or with another contrivance made by sewing curled papers about twelve inches wide on the end of a wand. For more elegant occasions a flybush of peacock feathers was used, the white ends of the feather being woven together to form a handle. Later swinging fans, made of wooden frames with curled papers attached, were suspended from the ceiling over the table and by means

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

of pulleys and a cord, often drawn by a little negro standing behind the hostess, were made to swing back and forth and shoo the flies. Still later an automatic device was introduced, with arms similar to a windmill, which was wound up with a key and placed in the center of the table and the arms revolved about it.

Before the advent of clocks and watches, sun dials, often crude homemade affairs, were used. It was also quite common to see tiny grooves cut in floors or upon doors to mark shadows on these places at certain hours of the day, particularly at noon.

There were so few physicians in these early days that the people had to depend almost entirely upon home remedies, and it was customary to store up roots, barks and herbs for medicines along with fruits and vegetables for food for the winter. "Bitters," a spring tonic, was made by putting wild cherry bark in whiskey or apple brandy; "Sassaparilla" was made in the same way by using the roots of the sarsaparilla. For dysentery it was customary to set fire to apple brandy and allow it to blaze for a minute or two before drinking it. For sore-throat mutton tallow, camphor and kerosene oil were rubbed on and then a woolen cloth or stocking pinned around the neck before retiring for the night. Old linens were kept in reserve and scraped to make lint with which to stop the flow of blood. A bunch of keys down one's back was supposed to stop nosebleed.

Dentistry was even as crude. For toothache the offending member was cut around, usually by the man of the house as having the strongest nerve, who sharpened his pocket knife upon the sole of his shoe while the patient looked on, and then extracted the tooth with forceps made in his own blacksmith's shop.

Shoes were made by a shoemaker on the plantation or by one in the neighborhood. There were tanneries in every community and choice hides of the cattle killed for food were made into leather for shoes for the family and slaves. The foot was placed upon a piece of paper and outlined with a pencil and the sole of the shoe cut by this pattern. The shoes were put together with little wooden pegs, also made at home. Later they were sold in the country store by the pint.

Soap was made of grease and meat scraps from the kitchen and lye dripped from a hopper filled with wood ashes, over which water was poured daily. This was cooked out of doors in a big kettle hung by pot hooks to a pole suspended over an open fire. The method of testing the strength of the lye in the mixture was by means of a feather. If it ate up the feather at once, it needed more grease, and if it did not eat it at all it did not contain enough lye. The happy medium was reached only by the experience of the soap maker.

SOCIAL LIFE OF OLD BEDFORD

The aesthetic impulses of the people found expression in various ways. Gardening was as popular then as now, the flower and vegetable gardens often being combined and laid off in little squares, according to the plan of their English cousins. These squares were edged with low-growing flowers, such as violets, lily of the valley, narcissus, etc., and small vegetables were planted within. Walks edged with boxwood were found everywhere, especially leading from the front gate to the house, and often on around the house. Much of this old boxwood has been sold in recent years to northern dealers for the restoration of old gardens in other sections of the country, and also for planting on new estates of the wealthy.

Besides the quilts and bedspreads mentioned above the ladies did other fine needlework; such as knitting, tatting, netting and crocheting; embroidery on garments, fancy household articles and sumplers; wax flowers and figures fashioned of white wax colored to please the taste of the artist; and flowers and personal ornaments made of human hair. The forms for the hair flowers were made of fine wire and the hair was woven in and out over them. Little locks of hair were set under glass in gold breastpins and worn with pride and pleasure by relatives and close friends of those whose hair it was. Watch chains were also made of hair woven in fancy patterns to cover ropes of thread about a quarter of an inch in diameter and about four inches long. These were mounted with gold ends and linked together to form the chain.

In those days all watches had closed cases, and ladies had tiny watch pockets at the waist line of their tight basque and wore long heavy gold chains around their necks, with a handsome gold slide, bejeweled and fringed, to hold the chain in place while it fell in loops to the pocket.

Every well dressed woman carried a "reticule" for her handkerchief, fan, etc., which was made of silk, embroidered and beaded, with a draw string of ribbon in the top.

Hoop skirts were worn until after the War Between the States. These, of course, necessitated very full skirts, which were just above "ankle length." Under these were fancy pantalets, showing about six inches below the skirt, with the toe of the slipper peeping from the pantalet. Hoop skirts were followed by bustles which projected sometimes as much as 18 inches just below the waist at the back. With these were worn overskirts and ruffles. Then came the trained skirts, both for daytime and evening wear, and the left hand must always be free to lift the train whenever objects were sighted over which it could not drag gracefully and safely.

These trains were the "straws that broke the camel's back."

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

"Dress reform" now became the order of the day and a really sensible dress was evolved. Tight corsets no longer caused "milady" to faint when she was trying to look her best, and hoop skirts and bustles were relegated to the attic. But as the years passed skirts became shorter and shorter, until they almost reached the knees.

Miss Grace Steptoe, in an article entitled, "Boonsboro Recreation in Past Years," published in the anniversary issue of "The Bedford Democrat," gives a glimpse of the social life of the eastern part of the county in early days. She says that Boonsboro, a small village just west of Lynchburg on the Natural Bridge highway, was the most noted recreation center of Bedford County in the days of long ago. Its proximity to the city made possible a large attendance at the various functions, tournaments, dances, and other amusements, during the summer and autumn.

Tournaments were especially popular sixty or seventy years ago, and many of the knights became quite proficient in the art of catching the suspended ring on the point of the lance as they rode rapidly down the course. Upon these occasions riders came from far and near to enter the contest, and the victorious knight had the honor of choosing and crowning the "queen of love and beauty." The coronation ceremony was held in the open field near the old brick residence of the Meriwethers, no trace of which now remains. The coronation ball, which always followed in the evening, was led by the victor and his queen, while the other knights followed with the ladies of their choice.

About three miles east of Boonsboro was a recreation center known as "Irvington," which flourished between 1870 and 1885. Its setting of natural beauty was enhanced by plantings of flowers and shrubs, shaded walkways, and rustic seats placed here and there throughout the grounds. A large dancing pavilion was lighted by tallow candles and kerosene lanterns, with the addition of Japanese lanterns upon special occasions. It was here that the belles and beaux of this and adjoining counties "tripped the light fantastic" until the small hours of the morning.

The principal mode of travel of the visitors was by horseback. It was not uncommon for a young man and his best girl to ride double on a horse, the young lady riding behind. She wore a long black riding skirt and sat sideways on the horse, back of the saddle.

After arrival the ladies were invited to a dressing room, where, with the assistance of a colored maid, they made ready for the festivities. Blacking and brush were always in readiness for those who had been so unfortunate as to step in the dust or mud. Rubbers had not been dreamed of.

SOCIAL LIFE OF OLD BEDFORD

A mineral spring with reputed healing properties was at this place. People from Lynchburg and elsewhere came to buy water and carry it away in jugs, believing they were benefitted by drinking it, but after a few years a story was circulated which raised a doubt in their minds as to its efficacy, and its popularity waned. It seemed that one patient, who had been using the water quite freely, began to lose faith in its curative qualities and remarked to the negro who helped him fill his jug, "The last water I got here was not as strong of iron as usual. Why was that?", "Yes suh," replied the honest negro, "Marse Jim forgot to put the pieces of rusty iron in the spring that time."

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The Stately Homes of Bedford

“POPLAR FOREST” RETREAT OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

Near the boundary line between Bedford and Campbell Counties and seven miles west of Lynchburg stands the beautiful old manor, “Poplar Forest,” the Bedford home of Thomas Jefferson, built by him while President of the United States for a retreat to which he could repair when affairs of state became burdensome or he wished to have a respite from the lavish hospitality he dispensed at “Monticello.” His idea of such a home here, he said, was conceived much earlier, when he was confined for three days in one of the two rooms of his overseer’s cabin during a long rainy spell.

The manor house is approached from Highway 460 by a mile of roadway, the first half winding through masses of Scotch broom, the seed for which is said to have been brought to Bedford County in feed for Jefferson’s horses, and the last half, straight as an arrow, passing through green fields stretching away on either side.

At once there is a glimpse of the doorway of the mansion directly at the end of the road. However, upon approaching the house progress is checked by a hedge of boxwood in circular form about twelve feet high. Inside this hedge a driveway following its contour and leading to the steps of the porch frames a circular garden of dwarf boxwood and old-fashioned flowers. Outside the hedge is a broad expanse of lawn which was originally shaded by huge poplar trees planted by Mr. Jefferson himself, thirteen on either side of the boxwood enclosure.

Mr. Jefferson was his own architect for “Poplar Forest” as he had been for “Monticello.” The structure is of brick and from the front it appears to be of one story. A stone wall and climbing roses conceal the rear which, due to the slope of the ground, has two stories—the lower a basement with wine cellar beneath. The interior of the house is a perfect octagon. The narrow entrance hall, flanked on either side by guest chambers, leads to the central room of the building, used by Mr. Jefferson as his dining room.

Directly opposite the front entrance French doors lead from the dining room into the drawing room, where three long windows open

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

ing upon the porch in the rear afford light and air for both rooms.

Chambers similar in shape and size open from either side of the central room, each in itself an octagon with two long walls and three corresponding short walls at the two ends. The one on the west was occupied by Mr. Jefferson and the one opposite by his two daughters. Just beyond these bedchambers, and opening from them, are the stairways leading to the rooms below. These were also bedrooms of the same dimensions as those above.

The kitchen, also of brick, is a house of only one room and is about forty feet east of the main building. In Mr. Jefferson's time the food was carried to the house by servants and sent up to the dining room on the dumb waiter. An enormous fireplace occupies almost the entire end of the kitchen. Narrow recesses on either side of it held the wood, six feet long, which was needed to feed the fire blazing under the iron pot that still swings from the old crane which belonged to Mr. Jefferson. It is said that one cook presided in this kitchen for seventy five years. After her death a kitchen was constructed in the main building.

As Mr. Jefferson was torch bearer in education and statecraft, so did he lay the stepping stones of asceticism. There is nothing at "Poplar Forest" to mar the beauty of its surroundings. Even the kitchen, smoke house and slave quarters are screened from the house by two immense mounds—one on either side of the rear, and from the porch is seen a wide expanse of green lawn, broken by neither tree nor shrub. This beautiful vista merges with the distant forest and nowhere is there even a suggestion of another habitation. Surely Jefferson's "retreat" has continued to fulfill its purpose.

Howe states in his "History of Virginia" that at "Poplar Forest" Jefferson wrote his "Notes on Virginia" while detained there from lameness caused by a fall from his horse, and that he also entertained Burke there and assisted him with his "History of Virginia." General Andrew Jackson was his guest there upon his return from the Battle of New Orleans.

Among the letters published with his writings in 1907 by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association are a few written from "Poplar Forest," indicating the times of his sojourn there and some of his interests. In 1811, he writes "Parson Clay," a friend and neighbor, that he is confined to his house by rheumatism and had amused himself calculating the hour lines of a horizontal dial.

In a letter dated November, 1821, Mr. Jefferson states that he has just returned from "Poplar Forest," which he had visited four times during the year, having an excellent home there, inferior only to "Monticello," comfortably fixed, with a few fine neighbors, and

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

that he passed his time in tranquility and retirement adapted to his age and indolence. He died July 4, 1826, at the age of 83.

"Poplar Forest" was sold by the Jefferson family to William Cobbs, ancestor of C. S. Hutter of Lynchburg, who later owned it and used it as a summer home until 1946, when he sold it to James Owen Watts, Jr., also of Lynchburg. Mr. Watts and his family now reside there

AVENEL

The following sketch was written in 1900 by a resident of the Elks National Home and published in a local newspaper. The information was no doubt furnished by Miss Lettie Burwell.

A HISTORIC MANSION OF BEDFORD CITY, VIRGINIA AVENEL

"Avenel," the ancestral home of Miss Lettie Burwell, the present occupant, was built for her father, the Hon. William M. Burwell, in 1837, and named after a conspicuous character in Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Monastery." It is built in the old colonial style of architecture, with walls over two feet in thickness, capacious halls and stairways, large rooms with high decorated ceilings, and old outside balconies and porches. At present it is surrounded by about fifteen acres of ground, containing many rare old trees and flower beds.

"The house is filled with genuine antique furniture, much of it over 200 years old, and a large collection of old silverware, china and cut-glass, as well as many curious and genuine colonial documents issued by George III of England. On the parlor walls hang a number of old ancestral portraits and many other rare pictures. In this room are also to be found two marble candlesticks in the shape of dragons, and two antique chairs, formerly belonging to Prince Tallyrand, who at one time taught school in New York City. The candlesticks are two feet high.

"The library contains many rare volumes of books, etc., and descends through several generations from colonial days. There is also to be seen the secretary formerly belonging to Thomas Jefferson, of solid mahogany, which was presented to Mr. Burwell by Jefferson himself.

"Mr. Burwell graduated with high honors from the University of Virginia, and his classmates while there were R. M. T. Hunter, Alexander H. Stephens, Edgar Allen Poe, etc. He was reared in the family of Thomas Jefferson, in whose service his father was long and honorably engaged.

Joseph E. Jackson."

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

Prior to and during the War Between the States, the lawn of "Avenel" was used as a muster ground by the militia of the county.

Among Mr. Burwell's close friends was General Robert E. Lee, who with his family often visited him here.

Mr. Burwell married Frances Steptoe, daughter of James Callaway and Katherine Mitchell Steptoe, and reared four talented daughters, the youngest of whom was Letitia, known by her many friends as "Miss Lettie," author of "A Girl's Life in Old Virginia." The second daughter, Katherine, married Dr. T. M. Bowyer, and their grandson, T. Bowyer Campbell, has written "Ole Miss," a southern story, the scene of which is laid at "Avenel."

After the death of "Miss Lettie" in 1905 the grounds of this fine old estate were cut up into streets and city lots and sold at auction. The mansion was bought by James W. Ballard, now deceased, and is still the home of his family.

"THREE OTTERS"

"Three Otters," formerly the seat of the Nichols family of the north side of the county, deserves special mention because of its spaciousness and the impression of dignity which the architecture creates.

This fine old manor is about two miles northwest of Bedford and perhaps a quarter mile from Route 43. It sits upon a high elevation overlooking broad acres and fertile fields, once a part of the estate, and commands an unsurpassed view of the Peaks of Otter and the foothills round about. Three small streams flowing through the property unite to form Little Otter creek where the highway crosses them. These suggested the name for the place.

Abel Beach Nichols (1796-1868), founder of "Three Otters," came from Bridgeport, Connecticut, with a company of peddlers about 1820. His first entry in the county deed books is in 1823, at which time he purchased a small tract of land in the southern part of the county. He continued to buy and sell land and prospered. He also opened a mercantile establishment in Liberty and by 1824 was importing goods from New York and had built a brick store house on the corner of Main and Market Streets. Part of this building still stands and is used by the plant of the Bedford Bulletin.

Having amassed sufficient fortune to take unto himself a wife, he returned to Bridgeport in 1824 and married Mrs. Clarissa Baldwin Linus. In 1836 he bought the land upon which he built "Three Otters" the following year. As the years passed he added many more acres to this original purchase.

The house is of brick with front and back porches alike—each

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

with granite steps. The door panels and side lights are also identical. Entering the front door you pass into a large hallway, which runs through the building and from the stairway ascends to the second floor. To the left are two large parlors opening into each other. The walls of the front parlor are beautifully frescoed with a medallion in the center of the ceiling. There is a large fireplace in each room and paneled woodwork and mantels. Across the hall are the dining room and a bedchamber, with fireplaces also. All ceilings on this floor are 15 feet high.

The second story has an outlet upon the railed roof of the front porch and the door and sidelights duplicate those below. Along the four sides of the attic level are a great many small windows of a single panel 18 by 24 inches. They contribute to the dignified decorative scheme.

The kitchen, ironing room, and buttery were in a two story longitudinal brick building connected with the manor by a roofed and paved arcade about 50 feet long.

"Three Otters" was a mecca for young people before the War Between the States and even during the trying days of reconstruction. All the Nichols men were horse lovers and an eighth of a mile down the slope to the west of the house was a race track where the fastest horses of this section were raced. At these times Mr. and Mrs. Nichols would spread great tables out of doors and slaves, carrying baskets and trays of food, would serve the guests. On this course shooting matches were also held and clay pigeons may still be found.

Mr. Nichols had three or four hunting parties a year. He would give word to "Old Anthony" to organize the commissary and camp equipment, select a retinue of slaves and be prepared in a few days to journey on the Blue Ridge for deer, elk, and other game. Ox teams drew the provisions part of the way, after which they were put on pack horses for the steep mountain trails. Returning with their game, their neighbors and friends were invited in for a barbecue.

During the War, A. B. Nichols, being too old for active service, was appointed to contract for army provisions. Some days previous to Hunter's Raid through this county, Mr. Nichols and some of his slaves, hearing that Hunter was en route, drove his sheep and cattle and some of those of his neighbors intended for the army to Dismal Swamp and there camped for several months.

George, son of A. B. Nichols, did active service in the War Between the States as a sergeant of the Second Virginia Regiment, until he was disabled and honorably discharged. Mrs. George Nichols, hearing that Hunter was coming, took her spy glass to the deck of the house and saw the Yankees come over the mountain. She had

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

her horse saddled and went out to meet them and talked with their leader. The house and its contents were not molested, but the soldier ran off with her hens, butter, eggs, and money.

FANCY FARM

"Fancy Farm," situated at the foot of the Peaks of Otter on Highway 45, was built about 1780 by Andrew Donald, a Scotch merchant previously doing business at New London. The manor house is a typical colonial brick structure of that period, with large rooms, high ceilings, paneled walls, a winding stairway, etc. The interior wood-work, especially the mantel in the parlor, is beautifully wrought.

In 1807, Thomas Moore and Christopher Clark, "Acting Testamentary Guardians of Benjamin and Geils Donald, Orphan Children of Andrew Donald, Deceased," sold to Isaac Otey the "Water Grist Mill" known as "Fancy Farm Mills," the "Distillery thereto contiguous, containing three stills and a large boiler, with part of the plantation lately the property of Andrew Donald, deceased, situated on the North side of Otter Creek."

Isaac Otey, Major in the War of 1812, married Elizabeth Matthews and among their children born at "Fancy Farm" was James Hervey Otey, who became a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church and was the first Bishop of Tennessee. He was also one of the founders of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee.

Major Otey sold "Fancy Farm" to his son-in-law, Captain Paschal Buford, who in turn sold it to Robert Kelso of Prince George County. It remained in the Kelso family until the death of Mrs. W. D. Cooper, daughter of Robert Kelso.

Upon one occasion Mrs. Hooper saw a stranger alight from his horse and come into her yard. He went about the spacious grounds and patted each tree affectionately. Then, coming up to the porch where she sat, he said: "No doubt you wonder at my unusual behavior, but I just had to speak to the trees first. I spent my childhood playing in their shade. I am James Hervey Otey."

The old "Water Grist Mill" was still in use in 1949, but since the days of Robert Kelso it has been called "Kelso's Mill."

In March, 1921, "Fancy Farm" was purchased by Sir George Sitwell of Derbyshire, England, uncle of FitzRoy Sitwell, who, with his family, occupies it.

In 1933 several acres of this estate were leased to the U. S. Government for a CCC camp. A number of tar paper buildings were erected—an administration building, a recreation hall, a dining hall, barracks, shops, car sheds, etc. When the men from this camp were called into military service, the buildings were then occupied by Con-

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

scientious Objectors until the close of World War II. Most of them were then razed and the material sold. Those which remained were made into homes for Forest Rangers and other Government employees.

LOCHWOOD HALL

Eight miles east of Bedford there stands an enchanting old manor house, "Lochwood Hall," which is now the property of Mrs. Charles Wise Byrd. The records of this old place are in the clerk's office of Bedford County and extend back without a break to the original grant made by King George II to William Callaway.

The old brick residence, mellowed with age and marked with individuality, can be seen from the highway for miles. It commands a magnificent view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and their picturesque foothills. The main three-story dwelling was built before the Revolutionary War, the architectural features, high ceilings, paneled walls, carved mantels, and deep recessed windows being similar to many of the James River houses built in that period. The builder's idea of permanence is indicated by the twenty-inch brick walls, which are still in excellent condition. Soon after 1852 additional rooms were built by Benjamin Wilkes, who at that time purchased the estate from Edwin C. Moore.

Viewing the house from the exterior, one's fancy is captured by the beauty of the trees and the legends which surround them. The doorway is marked by two large hemlocks, whose lacy branches cast intricate shadow patterns. Standing apart from the other trees are two ancient white pines, whose great height and unusual formation help to distinguish the site from a distance.

According to tradition a row of old trees which stand as sentinels along the carriage drive were named for the Confederate Generals in whose time they were planted. It was during Hunter's raid through Bedford County that his men took possession of this place, confiscating the contents of the smokehouse and slaughtering the cattle for the use of their troops.

On the south side of the house lies the formal English boxwood garden, where narcissi and golden daffodils border a carpet of blue periwinkle. The north side of the lawn sweeps down to the old slave quarters, near which are grouped the smoke house, a stone icehouse and the interesting dairy room with its many stone shelves.

The colorful days of Virginia's past pervade this old manor house with its beautiful setting.

Mrs. Sallie Johnston Byrd is the daughter of John W. and Lucy Thomas Johnston of Bedford. Her husband, Dr. Charles Wise Byrd, of the distinguished family of Eastern Virginia, practiced medicine

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

in New York City until his death, when she returned to Bedford and purchased this old estate. She renamed it "Lochwood Hall" after the seat of the Johnston family in Scotland.

MERRIMAN'S TAVERN

Edward Merriman came to Bedford County from Wallingford, Conn., and acquired about one thousand acres of land in the "Timber Ridge" vicinity. In 1828 he married Eleanor Sample of Franklin County. He built his residence on the turnpike about six miles east of Liberty and soon opened it as a tavern for the accommodation of the stage coaches which passed his door. He also built, on a part of his acreage, the handsome old brick house.

Mr. Merriman's ten children were all of unusual size, the smallest weighing one hundred and ninety pounds after she was grown. His daughter, Lucy, married Richard M. Dennis and for many years conducted a boarding house on Main Street in Liberty. "Miss Lucy" was known far and wide for her hospitality and her kindness of heart, and was an outstanding figure in the life of the town. A Northern man once fell ill at her house and she tenderly nursed him until he was able to return home. He did not recover, however, and during his last days he talked so much about "Miss Lucy" and her kindness to him, that when he was gone his family wished to express their gratitude to her and to tell her that he had remembered her to the last, but they had never heard him mention her full name, so they sent a letter addressed simply, "Miss Lucy, Liberty, Virginia." No more was needed—"Miss Lucy" received it.

(The recent development of Route 297 has brought about drastic changes in this property, so it is no longer recognizable as the home-stead it once was.)

MOUNT PROSPECT

One of the handsome old homes of the county is "Mount Prospect," on Allen's Mountain, about five miles northwest of Bedford. It was originally a part of the old Dooley patent which was granted to Moses Dooley by King George II of England and embraced all the land from Holt's Mountain, a mile and a half west of Bedford, around to Peaksville. Mr. Dooley died in 1775 and this part of his estate was inherited by his daughter, who married a Karnes. She sold it to Christopher ("Kit") Clark, the first commonwealth's attorney of Bedford, who built the large brick residence now standing.

The next owner was Major Isaac Otey, who in 1818 purchased from Mr. Clark "several parcels or tracts of land on Otter River known

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

by the name of Mount Prospect, his former residence, estimated at 3,000 acres." For these he paid \$30,000.

In 1820 Major Otey sold 1,540 acres of the Mount Prospect estate to his son, John M. Otey. It is related that Mr. Otey was a great fox hunter, and that upon one occasion he started a fox on Allen's mountain, near his home, and caught it down about Lowry, a distance of perhaps ten miles. An old woman kept a cake and pie shop near where the fox was caught, and after the kill Mr. Otey rode up to her place and asked how many cakes she had. She replied that she had just finished baking, and had about a bushel in stock, whereup he bought the entire lot and fed them to his hounds.

Mr. Otey sold Mount Prospect in 1839 to Col. Robert Allen, who sold off portions of it until he reduced the acreage to 900 acres. This included the mountain which still bears his name. Col. Allen died in 1860, and the next owner was Samuel M. Bolling, afterwards clerk of the county. Mr. Bolling reduced the acreage still further by selling all of the land north of Big Otter River. Later he sold the residence and the remaining 400 acres to Arthur Sanders, a Canadian, who with his family lived there several years.

Mr. Sanders sold Mount Prospect to S. S. Lambeth, Jr., son-in-law of Mr. Bolling. He built a fine dairy barn and did much to improve the place, but the depression of 1929-36 wrecked his plans.

"PEBBLETON

"Pebbleton," the home of Nicholas Davies, was built soon after the formation of this county from Lunenburg County in 1754. It is eight miles west of Lynchburg on the Holcomb Rock road.

Nicholas Davies, a Welshman, came to Virginia at the age of 15. He was a merchant in Henrico County about 1730, a justice in Goochland in 1741; and a justice in Cumberland in 1748. He was a successful dealer in lands, locating, entering, patenting, transferring and selling them. He owned large boundaries in Amherst and Bedford Counties.

He married in 1733 Mrs. Judith Fleming Randolph, widow of Col. Thomas Randolph of "Tuckahoe." They had no children. Thomas' brother, Isham Randolph of "Dungenese," was father of Jane, wife of Peter Jefferson and mother of Thomas Jefferson.

After the formation of Bedford County Nicholas Davies and his wife moved to his holdings in Bedford and named the mountain land Fleming in honor of her maiden name, and the stream that ran through it, Judith, for her also.

He built a log cabin on the summit for a hunting lodge and called it "Eagle Eyrie." It was later burned and replaced by a tavern

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

which was operated by two generations of Ogdens, who also had the first post office there, and called it Ogden's Gap. Years went by, the tavern fell into disuse and the land was bought by Seymour Locke who was the owner when Highway No. 501 was built nearer to "Eagle Eyrie." From then the map of Bedford County shows the portion north of the highway as Locke's Mountain.

The next owner of "Eagle Eyrie" was a German baron, Quarles von Ufford, who built in 1915 the mansion now standing. It was suspected at the time that, seeing World War I was being lost by his country, this would be a safe haven for the Kaiser's family. The Federal Government kept him under surveillance as long as he lived here. He sold it in 1919 and left the country.

Thereafter "Eagle Eyrie" changed hands several times and was finally purchased by C. J. Stevenson, who sold it in 1950 to the Virginia Board of Missions and Education of the Baptist Church for a summer encampment.

CEDAR GLEN

"Cedar Glen," home of Edward C. Hatcher, is situated near Reba, at the foot of the Peaks of Otter, on a grassy knoll which rolls away on all sides. A large apple orchard stretches out in front of the house, but the elevation is such that it does not obstruct the wonderful view of the country to the south. "Sharp Top" rises at the back of the house, a little to the northeast.

"Cedar Glen" was the seat of the Ewing family in Bedford County, and Charles Ewing, the first of the name here, and many of his descendants are buried in the old graveyard near the residence. William Ewing, heir-at-law of Charles, inherited this part of his father's estate and, in turn, willed it to his nephew, Mitchell Ewing, whom he reared. The residence now standing was built by Mitchell Ewing more than 100 years ago and remained in his family for three generations.

M. Luther Hatcher, father of the present owner, purchased the place more than a half century ago. After his death, Edward C. Hatcher bought the interests of the other heirs. He has modernized the house without destroying its old, attractive features. The broad, thick doors, the small paned windows, the old paneling and mantels have all been retained, and the three old mill stones which form the front steps give it an atmosphere of colonial days. In the front yard is a stone of unusual character. It is of sugar loaf shape, with a hole four inches in diameter passing through its center from top to bottom. It is said to have been a flax stone.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

LOCUST LEVEL

“Locust Level,” the seat of the Buford family in Bedford County, is near Montvale. The original plantation was a grant to Henry Buford from King George III of England. He increased his acreage from time to time until he owned a large boundary, which included Buford’s Gap on the west and the old “Block House” on the east.

Henry Buford was Captain in the Revolutionary Army, high sheriff, a presiding justice, and prominent in all affairs of the county.

At his death the manor house descended to his youngest son, Paschal Buford, captain in the War of 1812, who kept a tavern here in stage coach days. In 1822 he built the brick residence now standing, and later he erected a frame house in the yard which was called “The Hall” and was used exclusively for company, of which there was much at “Locust Level,” for Capt. and Mrs. Buford dispensed a lavish hospitality. During the War Between the States the wife and daughter of General Robert E. Lee spent an entire summer at “Locust Level.”

When the United States Government requested each state of the Union to furnish a block of native stone for the Washington Monument, Capt. Buford sent his men and oxen to the mountain and brought down a portion of the top rock of the Peaks of Otter, which had been dislodged from its resting place and rolled down the mountain many years before, ‘tis said, by a party of students from Washington College. From this stone a block was cut and sent to Washington as Virginia’s contribution to the monument. Another piece was placed upon the Courthouse green, and a third was taken to “Locust Level,” where it was chiseled into symmetrical shape, two basins made in the top of it, and the words “Peaks of Otter” cut upon its face. It is now used as a receptacle for flowers in the cemetery across the creek, where sleep Capt. and Mrs. Henry Buford, Capt. and Mrs. Paschal Buford and others of the family.

THE EAGLE’S NEST

“The Eagle’s Nest,” now only the ruins of the old home of James Mayse, Jr., is on the south side of Board’s Mountain, in the southwestern part of the county. Cate’s Creek flows along the base of the mountain and empties into Staunton River farther down.

James Mayse, Jr., was the son of James Mayse, Sr., who with his brother, John, came from Amherst County and bought land here during the Revolution.

James Mayse, Jr., was born in Bedford County about 1780, and died in 1847. He married January 3, 1802, Patsy Wright, daughter of

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

Thomas Wright, a neighbor, who had come from Augusta County even before the arrival of the Mayses. He became a prosperous planter and increased the acreage inherited from his father until he owned more than one thousand acres in this vicinity. He also had holdings in the town of Liberty. The site of the present Baptist Church in Bedford was purchased from his estate. Of his four sons, Samuel C. married Agnes Wright and went to Davidson County, Tennessee; William S. married Susan R. Claytor, daughter of Dr. John Claytor, and went to McCracken County, Kentucky; James D. K. married Sarah Lloyd and inherited "The Eagle's Nest." He died while in prison in Richmond during the War Between the States.

Sarah Lloyd Mayse continued to live at "The Eagle's Nest" after the death of her husband, and some years later married Albert L. Harris. She had no children, and after her death Mr. Harris sold the home to William C. Wright, who lived there for several years. He sold it to the late J. J. Saunders, of whose estate it is still a part.

CEDAR HILL

"Cedar Hill," on West Main Street, today the home of the Caughthorn family, is the oldest residence in the town of Bedford. It is beautifully situated on an elevation facing the Peaks of Otter, and until recent years giant oaks of primeval growth shaded the grassy lawn. A row of cedars, which once stood along its northern boundary, gave the estate its name.

Its history is almost lost in oblivion. The original house is said to have been built by William Bramlett, Jr., a Baptist preacher and son of William Bramlett, Sr., one of the pioneer citizens of the county. In 1805 the heirs of Mr. Bramlett sold this part of his estate to James C. Steptoe, and upon the death of Mr. Steptoe it was purchased by John P. Gray, who deeded it to Marquis D. Gray in 1837. Samuel Ritchey was the next owner, and he sold it to William V. Jordan, from whom it was purchased in 1865 by Col. John Crenshaw, whose family and descendants have owned and occupied it ever since.

The house was remodeled under the direction of Col. Crenshaw and has not been materially changed since that time. The form of the original dwelling is a matter of conjecture, but the woodwork of the rear, both exterior and interior, clearly belongs to a much earlier period than the remainder of the house.

West of the residence, connected with it by a flag stone walk, was a large double brick building, used as a kitchen in slave times. The drive and walkway originally entered the lawn at the north east corner and passed in front of the Clerk's Office, a structure built and used by Mr. Steptoe to transact the business of his office

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

during the time of his clerkship.

When the Federal troops passed through the town upon the occasion of Hunter's Raid, soldiers encamped upon the lawn, but nothing was molested. A shot passed through a closed window blind at that time and lodged in the opposite wall, where it remains until this day, a grim reminder of the horrors of the war.

SAVENAC

This handsome old manor, two miles south of Bedford near Route 43 was built in 1821 by Abner Fuqua and has changed owners many times through the years. It is a large brick building facing north and was originally "L" shaped, but after it was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Nicholl—English people—a large drawing room was added in the angle at the rear, which completed the square. The Nicholls named the place "Savenac" after an ancestral home in England.

In 1912, it was sold to Edward A. Moore, of Lexington, author of "The Story of a Cannoneer Under Stonewall Jackson." In 1914, another Englishman, Sir Robert Stark, bought it. He made many changes in the house; built the English barn and enclosed the lawn with a concrete wall. He was a fancier of thoroughbred horses.

Mr. Stark died from the effects of a fall and his widow sold the place to the late Landon Lowry, a prominent attorney of Bedford. It is still a part of his estate and is occupied by his widow.

LONE ASPEN

Six miles farther south on Route 122 is "Lone Aspen," built in 1855 by Ammon Hancock Parker, whose first wife and mother of his children, was Francis H. Goggin. She was first cousin to John M. Clemens, father of Mark Twain.

"Lone Aspen" was inherited by Alexander Clark Parker, their youngest son. Robert William, their eldest son, was Sergeant of Company "F," 2nd Virginia Cavalry, in the War Between the States and was the last man killed in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was with General Lee at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, and had just stepped out in front of his company when he was shot down by the enemy. The surrender had been signed but the news had not reached the front. He was buried between the lines by men from both sides, North and South.

George Stephen, the second son, was a member of the 58th Virginia Infantry and died in 1862, while in service.

"Lone Aspen" is a frame "L" shaped building with parlor and bedroom in front and dining room and kitchen in the rear. An

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

attractive stairway leads from the front hall to the two rooms above, and another leads from the dining room to the two back rooms above. The walk leading to the house is lined with boxwood and two immense tree boxwoods are at each end of the hedge.

The house is near the road on lowlands of Machine Creek, which until recent years was not bridged. Time after time, when sudden rains had made the crossing impossible, the Parkers entertained stranded travelers over night, furnishing them food and lodging with never a thought of recompense.

They were known far and wide for their hospitality and many of their kin from a distance arranged for their vacations to be spent at "Lone Aspen," knowing that for a week or a month the welcome was always the same. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are now deceased, but the estate is still in the family. The youngest two of their seven children, Grady and Amanda, continue to live there and dispense the same hospitality to a host of relatives and friends.

OAKWOOD

This historic homestead is situated in the eastern part of Bedford town and originally was the home of William Terry, who bought the land in 1779, adding to it from time to time until he had about 800 acres. On his death in 1814 the estate passed to his son, William Terry, Jr.

In 1862, John and Jane (Terry) Buford purchased 767 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of this estate, which may have been all of it, and in 1884, Elizabeth Bolling, wife of Samuel M. Bolling, bought 207 acres, including the residence. Of this, John Bower bought 104 acres in 1904, and sold it to G. M. Wigington in 1909. Mrs. Lola Mitchell Wigington, widow of G. M. Wigington, in 1947 sold the place to Aubrey Strode, who makes it his home.

William Terry was born about 1750 and married Prudence Johnson. He was one of the greatest horse breeders the county has ever had. He fought in the Revolutionary War as a Captain. In his will, probated in 1814, he left to his daughter Susanna Terry Trigg a few slaves and the land on which she resided. In the division William, Jr., eldest son, received the manor tract.

William, Jr., continued the manor life and took his father's place as a Gentleman Justice. Around 1820, he was keeper of the Court-house at \$1250 per year and in 1846 was appointed to let the contract for the jail. During his occupancy and that of his daughter, Jane Terry Buford, whose husband bought the place, there was "open house" all the time. The maple flooring in the parlor was Paschal Buford's wedding present to Jane Terry, his daughter-in-law.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

After the War was over, William, Jr., called his slaves about him, even his field hands, and to each unmarried one he gave \$2.50 and to a family he gave \$5.00. As the old butler came up for his, he refused to take it, saying he knew it was the last \$5.00 "Ole Marse" had. He died not long after the War. His will, made in 1863, gave his entire estate to his wife, Letitia S. Terry, as long as she was a widow and afterwards to his daughters Letitia Terry Whitlock and Agnes M. Terry.

The oak grove at "Oakwood" was a favorite site for duels, and the place is said to be haunted today by those who were killed or wounded there. It was also a favorite site for the annual "Tournament of King Arthur's Knights." The Bedford Sentinel of 1857 gives an interesting account of one of these tournaments.

William Terry, Jr., kept an ordinary around 1816, presumably on his estate. In 1830, he bought "Bell's Tavern," which is still standing and is the Palace Hotel of today. The bell on this tavern was used to summon to auction, to court, and to fires, as well as to dinner. Mr. Terry sold this tavern in 1839 to Jesse and John Hopkins.

READ-MOOR

"Read-Moor," near New London Academy on Route 811, originally the home of Barlow Read, has been rebuilt and renovated by his nephew, Granville Moorman Read, and Mrs. Read of Wilmington, Delaware, where he is chief engineer of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company.

Mr. Read acquired "Read-Moor" in 1936. He has added two wings and various features of Colonial architecture to the original building; has built rambling white plank fences, restored the old well house, and has made the four tenant houses into modern residences. Some of his furniture has been made of a fine old walnut tree which stood in the way of his improvements.

He is the son of Prof. Daniel Warwick Read and his wife, Laura Moorman Read, who were teachers at New London Academy from 1885 to 1896. Prof. Read was principal and Mrs. Read taught music and art. This son was born on the Academy campus. He was educated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and in Paris, where he studied art, science, and architecture for four years.

The name "Read-Moor" was suggested by his mother, who spent the summers here until her death in 1941. His wife comes down in May and remains through September, and Mr. Read spends his vacations here, where his hobby is raising fine cattle on his more than 1,000 acres of rolling pasture lands and hay fields.

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

LOCUST GROVE

Judging by the frequency with which "Locust" appears in the names of the old homes of the county, this must have been a favorite shade tree for the lawns of early days. Another "Locust Grove," now called "Locust Hill," was built about 1760 by Edmund Cobbs of Albemarle County. It is situated on the Boonsboro Road eight miles from the center of Lynchburg and, in spite of the fact that it is the oldest residence in continuous existence in this part of the county, it is still well preserved and beautiful.

The house is a colonial frame structure with two chimneys at each end, four rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor. It is ideally situated with beautiful surroundings and a commanding view of the mountains. The atmosphere of the entire place is suggestive of "ye olden times."

"Locust Grove" was originally an estate of 1,000 acres willed, in 1758, by Samuel Cobbs to his brothers, Edmund and John. Edmund Cobbs married Sarah, daughter of John Lewis, of Albemarle County, and reared a large family, of whom John Lewis Cobbs married Susanna Hamner of Albemarle and was the father of Bishop Nicholas Hamner Cobbs; Waddy Cobbs married Margaret Gwatkin and built "Elk Hill," later the home of the Nelson family in Bedford, Edmund Cobbs, Jr., married Elizabeth Willis Manson, of "Pebbleton," and succeeded his father as owner of "Locust Grove."

The estate is now (1938) the property of John M. Capron, who takes great pride in his colonial possession, and calls it "Locust Hill."

ASH SPRING

John Wheat was probably the first of the name in Bedford County, having been granted land here by King George II, comprising most of what is now Wheat's Valley and also the Richard Burks place, the home of his son, Norwood Burks. On this latter place, now on Route 122 opposite St. Thomas Church, John Wheat lived, perhaps in a log cabin, and here he was buried, the exact spot not known. He served on juries and on committees to judge land values, and to select routes for proposed roads. He was also, for a time, a justice of the county court.

Zachariah Wheat, son of Joseph Wheat of Baltimore and nephew of the above John Wheat, was ancestor of the Wheats now living in Bedford County. He came from Baltimore to Bedford before the Revolution and was granted lands adjoining Suck, Head foremost and Onion Mountains. He built his manor house at Haile's Fork of Otter River, and called it "Ash Spring." All of the original buildings are

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

gone. He raised sheep, corn, wheat, and tobacco, and had many slaves. During the Revolutionary War he furnished money and provisions for the Continental army, but there is no record of any Wheat having participated in that war as a soldier from Bedford County.

In the War Between the States Hazale Wheat, son of Zachariah, furnished the Confederate soldiers with provisions. Levi and Joseph F. Wheat, sons of Hazale, fought in that war. Levi was killed and Joseph was severely wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines.

Joseph Wheat, brother of Hazale, lived and died in Wheat's Valley. He was twice married, his second wife being Martha Hancock, through whom he came into possession of the "Old Hancock Place." Otis P. Wheat of "The Anchorage," near Thaxton, is his son.

An interesting tradition in the family is that William Wheat, of Pennsylvania, perhaps brother of John, was away from his home one day when Indians came to his house, killed his wife and carried off his children. He, being willing to resort to any means to save his children, followed the Indians, lived among them, learned their language and customs, and finally got on the trail of the tribe that carried off his children. Choosing a time when they were asleep, he killed some of the Indians, recaptured his children and they all escaped.

The early Wheats of Bedford County intermarried with the Chastains. French Huguenots, who came to Manakin Towne, near Richmond, with the Huguenot migration in 1700, and on to Bedford County a little later. A Dr. Chastain brought with him from France a sword which has come down through the Wheat family to Hugh II. Wheat, who lives on the "Ash Spring" place at Haile's Fork of Otter River. Mr. Wheat prizes the old sword highly and plans to place it in some historical depository for safe-keeping, but not so his father, O. W. Wheat, who used it to cut weeds about his premises.

CHARLEMONT LODGE

"Charlemont Lodge," so named by its recent owners, is situated in the northern part of the county near the village of Charlemont. It is the old home of Captain Jacob White and was built in the early 1800's, the land upon which it stands having been purchased by him in 1805. This was the first of many tracts owned by Capt. White in this vicinity.

Jacob White was the son of Henry White of Buckingham County and was captain in the Revolutionary Army, though a mere boy when he entered the service. He married Hannah Spiers and they had twelve children.

When his estate was divided after his death, the "home place"

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

fell to his son, William Allen White, colonel of the Bedford County Militia after the Revolution. Col. White was twice married. His first wife, Caroline Poindexter, bore him two sons, Jacob Samuel White and John Milton White. His second wife, Lucy McDaniel Reese, daughter of Joseph T. and Elizabeth Tinsley Reese, bore him a daughter, Sallie Spiers White, who married Judge William Holcombe Bolling and was the mother of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, the second wife of the "War President."

"Charlemont Lodge" is a frame building of colonial type, with large rooms and a broad hallway. It overlooks No Business Mountain, at the base of which is the family cemetery, where are buried Capt. Jacob White and his wife, Col. William Allen White and his first wife, and others of the family.

OLD JETER HOME

This quaint little house was built during the Revolution by Henry Jeter, 1st lieutenant of the Bedford County Militia. It is about a quarter of a mile east of the Big Island highway, near Blount. The building has very thick walls, weather-boarded on the outside and sealed within, and filled in between with brick bats and mortar—a veritable fort. The basement has a natural floor of soapstone, and the timbers, perfectly preserved, are hand hewn. The old HL hinges and big brass locks are still in use.

A tremendous osage orange tree stands in front of the house and is one of a hedge that once enclosed the yard and garden. Old boxwoods line the walk to the house and two old mill stones serve as steps to the front porch. A winding path leads from the back door to the spring at the foot of the hill, and the entire atmosphere round about savors of "ye olden time." It remained in the Jeter family until 1946, when it was purchased by Morton E. Padgett, Jr.

LOCUST GROVE

"Locust Grove," home of Martin Parks Burks, is on the north side of the county near Sedalia.

This plantation of 500 acres was deeded to Jesse Spinner in 1811 by George D. Winston of Campbell County. In 1826 it became the property of Martin Parks Burks, who had married the only child of Jesse Spinner and his first wife, Celia Cheatwood.

The residence was built by Mr. Burks and completed in 1841. It is a three story brick building of colonial style. The hearths and sills of both doors and windows are of soapstone and the front door is a solid piece of wood. The most striking feature of the very attractive interior is the beautiful winding stairway.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Here was born Edward Calohill Burks, eldest son of Martin Burks and Louise Claiborne Spinner Burks, who became a lawyer of distinction, a Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, one of the revisers of the Code of Laws of Virginia, and was the founder and editor of the Virginia Law Register.

LOCUST HILL

Just before reaching Sedalia on the highway from Bedford to Big Island, opposite Colton's Mill, on a hill east of the road, is "Locust Hill," old colonial home of Major Thomas Logwood, who came from Chesterfield County in 1774 and settled here. He acquired lands in this vicinity until the estate of "Locust Hill" comprised 5000 acres, and included "Wyoming," later the plantation of Col. Jesse Burks, the old Davis place, and others.

The woodwork throughout the house is hand-carved. In the dining room there are cupboards reaching from floor to ceiling—one on each side of the fireplace.

Thomas Logwood was Captain of the Bedford County Militia during the Revolutionary War. He fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and was wounded three times. No record has been found of his having been promoted to major, but such was evidently the case, for in the family and in the neighborhood he was known as "Major Logwood"; and the Lynchburg Press, under date of Sept., 1821, carried this item: "Died, at his residence in Bedford, Major Thomas Logwood, 80 years of age, a Revolutionary soldier."

Major Logwood was high sheriff of Bedford County and had considerable reputation as a surveyor. He located the road from Bedford to Big Island.

Some of the old locust trees from which the place took its name are still standing and an immense elm tree shades one side of the yard. From the house the hill slopes off to the south into a beautiful meadow, and to the east into rolling fields. From the front of the house the view of the mountains is unsurpassed.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

"Mountain View," 12 miles north of Bedford near Route 122, is still owned by the heirs of William H. Wright, who bought it in 1884, and is occupied by two of his daughters, Misses Belle and Leonardine Wright.

This old colonial brick house was built by Richard Davis, son of Samuel Davis, the immigrant, and called "Soldier's Rest." The Wrights have added a frame ell, which has changed the original shape to a "T." The front entrance has a double door, each part hav-

THE STATELY HOMES OF BEDFORD

ing three panels, and is secured with a stout wooden bar.

OTTERBURN

One of the most attractive old manors of Bedford County is "Otterburn," situated about 400 yards from State Highway 122 and two miles northwest of the town of Bedford. (This is now the Hines Memorial Pythian Home for children.)

It was erected in 1837 by Benjamin A. Donald, son of Andrew Donald of "Fancy Farm." He was a presiding justice and active in all county affairs. He married Miss Sallie Camm of Amherst County and, having no children, he left her his entire estate. She bequeathed it to her sister, Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Patterson of Buckingham County, and in 1885 after the death of Mrs. Patterson, it was sold by her heirs to Major Joseph B. Sladen, an Englishman.

Major Sladen and his son, Ramsey, lived there until 1899, when the major died. The place had been heavily mortgaged and was sold under deed of trust several years after, the purchasers being J. Parker Lambeth of Richmond and John D. Ballard of Bedford. Mr. Lambeth's health being poor at the time, he was ordered by his physician to try an outdoor life and he laid out a violet farm at "Otterburn." In a few years he returned to Richmond. Mr. Ballard purchased his interest in the place and, after the marriage of his son, Garrett, turned it over to him. Mr. and Mrs. John Wright, parents of Mrs. Ballard, lived with them and Mr. Wright cultivated the farm for several years and operated a large dairy in connection with it.

Ownership has changed again and again and in 1944 it was sold at auction and bought by Jesse C. Saunders, Sr., a native of Bedford, who was manager of a large coal operation at Premier, West Virginia, until his retirement some years ago. He has had the interior re-decorated, modern conveniences added, and has had the exterior and all the out-buildings painted white. In its setting of rolling fields of green alfalfa on every side, it commands the admiration of all who pass that way.

TERRACE VIEW

"Terrace View," situated about three miles south of Bellevue between the Norfolk and Western Railway and the old Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike, consisted originally of about 416 acres and belonged to William Callaway, Jr. By his will it passed to his grandsons, William B. and John Callaway. William B. conveyed his half interest in the land to his brother, John, who continued to purchase adjoining lands until he owned about 1200 acres.

In 1841 John Callaway built the colonial brick residence which

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

is still standing and which retains much of its original beauty. It has eight rooms with high ceilings, large fireplaces, and brick partition walls. The door sills, window sills, and front steps are of native stone, and the interior woodwork—doors, mantels, and paneling—is most attractive.

Upon the death of Mr. Callaway 800 acres of this land, including the residence, passed to his daughter, Rose, who afterward married Albert M. Doyle.

It is now (1947) the home of Lawrence Wells and his family.

RAVEN ROCK

The first of the Crenshaw family to settle in Bedford County were David and Elizabeth (Hobson) Crenshaw who came from Amelia County about 1782.

From his will David Crenshaw appears to have owned approximately 2,800 acres of land in South Bedford County, situated on Goose Creek, near Rocky Ford. On this land he erected a three story frame dwelling, apparently modeled on the same plan as many of the old houses now standing in his native county.

The early Crenshaws are said to have been Quakers, and it is easy to see the severe Quaker influence in the character of this building.

The house was constructed of virgin timbers—hewn, sawed, and dressed on the spot and, during its construction, the young couple lived in a log cabin near by, in order that they might be able to personally oversee and supervise the building.

About a half mile from the dwelling is Raven Rock, a high, rugged cliff overlooking the beautiful valley of Goose Creek. This spot is a favorite resort of nature lovers and, while it is not known that the estate was called by this name, it would have been most suitable and appropriate to have done so.

Upon the death of David Crenshaw the property was divided among his nine children and the home place, after the death of the mother, descended to his daughter, Lucy Crenshaw Davis. She left it to her great nieces, Lucy and Eliza Pate, and it then passed to the ownership of their half-sister, the late Mrs. Letitia Pate Evans.

The family graveyard is not far removed and there David and Elizabeth are buried. Gradually, as the years have passed, they have been joined by children, grandchildren and descendants' who rest with them in their long sleep.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

A Few of Bedford's Famous Sons

One hundred years ago Bedford County was called the "preachers' plant bed," and perhaps rightly so. Certainly there were many in the ministry from this county during those years who became renowned and of whom Bedford has every reason to be proud. Among them the following:

THE REV. JOHN HOLT RICE, D. D.

John Holt Rice, son of Benjamin Rice, was born at New London in Bedford County Nov. 28, 1777. His father was a lawyer and served as deputy under James Steptoe, clerk of the court, receiving for his services the munificent sum of 80 cents per annum. His mother, Catherine Holt Rice, was a woman of culture and social position. Both parents were deeply religious. John, one of a family of five sons and daughters, was frail and delicate, and was his mother's constant companion and object of special solicitude. Early in life he manifested a passion for books and learning and made a brave struggle to accomplish it. At the age of eight he gave evidence of that intensive love for God which dominated his whole life. When he was twelve his mother died. The step-mother who came into the home was intensely jealous of her husband's love for the delicate boy and put every obstacle she could in the way of his studying. She required so much work of him that he was obliged to prepare his lessons after he had been sent to bed without a candle, by the light of pine knots which he had previously smuggled into his room. At this time he was reading Horace.

Later, his father, by a great effort, managed to send him to Liberty Hall, now Washington and Lee University, for a year and a half. Then he had another year and a half at New London, where a school for boys had just been opened. This completed his education.

He had some years of tutoring in private families and then secured a position as tutor at Hampden-Sydney College. He was here some years, enjoying his work with the boys, and growing in character and knowledge through his intercourse with his fellow workers and by the use of the College library—a luxury he had never before enjoyed. Up to this time he had not considered the ministry

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

as a calling, but he now decided upon that course, and studied under Dr. Archibald Alexander to that end. He was licensed to preach at the age of twenty-six years.

For some years he continued his work at the college in connection with his pastoral work, gaining thereby a meagre living. In 1812 he received a call to Richmond to gather the scattered Presbyterians there into a group and establish a church. He gladly accepted the call, and after some years of hard work succeeded in establishing the First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, one of the two great achievements of his life. During these years he edited a weekly religious paper, "The Christian Monitor," and "The Evangelical and Literary Magazine." These periodicals were characterized by comprehensive views of the great questions of the day, handled with ability, and were far-reaching in their influence. He was recognized as a power in the church, and was often called upon for work which took him to the northern cities. Many of his sermons were published in the papers of his day and widely read. His biographer mentions many of them by name, telling of the deep impression they made far and wide, and calling them masterpieces of thought and diction.

When the church decided to establish a theological seminary in the South, Dr. Rice was chosen for the task. At the same time he was elected president of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton. Which should he accept? On the one hand he was offered the presidency of an established college with an assured future in the North; on the other hand he was asked to create a new institution in Virginia. Possibly the remembrance of his early struggle for an education helped him to decide in favor of the Virginia seminary. A site was donated and the work begun in a cabin, with a student enrollment of three persons. From this small beginning has grown the handsome plant of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. This is the achievement for which his name stands, and will always be honored in the annals of Presbyterianism.

THE REV. SAMUEL LYLE GRAHAM, D. D.

Samuel Lyle Graham was born in Liberty in 1794. He, too was a student at New London Academy, and later at Liberty Hall, in Lexington. He was graduated from the latter institution at the age of twenty. He pursued his theological studies at Princeton, taking the full course, and so was exceptionally well educated. After being licensed to preach he spent some years as a missionary in Virginia and some of the states on the Ohio river, preaching in the wilds, where settlements were thin, dangers many, and comforts few. After serv-

A FEW OF BEDFORD'S FAMOUS SONS

ing some pastorates he was elected to the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the Union Theological Seminary, at Hampden-Sydney, which chair he filled for thirteen years. His love of learning was great, his store of knowledge rich, his mind enquiring and active, making him peculiarly fitted to be a "teacher of teachers."

BISHOP NICHOLAS HAMNER COBBS

The man who may be regarded as the father of the Episcopal Church in all this section of Virginia was Nicholas Hamner Cobbs. He stands high up among the many remarkable men that Virginia has produced. He was born in 1795 in Bedford County, within sight of the celebrated Peaks of Otter, within the shadow of which he often expressed a desire to be buried. His father was not a believer, but his mother was a devoted Episcopalian. There was no church of that faith in this section of the state and his mother carried him fifty miles—perhaps to Charlottesville—on horseback in order to have him christened in the Episcopal Church.

Nor was her faithfulness unrewarded. He was confirmed and took his first communion May 23, 1824, in Trinity Church at Staunton, Virginia, and was ordained a deacon at the same service. He was ordained to priesthood by Bishop Moore in Monumental Church, Richmond, May 22, 1825, and consecrated as bishop in old Christ Church, Philadelphia, October 20, 1844.

John Goode, in his "Recollections of a Lifetime," says:

"When an infant Bishop Cobbs baptized me at old St. Stephen's in the neighborhood. He was a frequent visitor at our home and I remember well his saintly appearance and his Godly conversation. He and my father were reared on adjoining farms and grew up as boys together. I have often heard the latter say that "Nick" Cobbs, as he called him, was born a Christian, that in all their interview he had never heard him utter an immoral jest nor make use of any expression that could not be repeated in the presence of ladies.

"In the days of his early manhood he was engaged as a teacher at New London Academy, and it was his constant custom to go out and perform missionary work on Saturdays and Sundays. Wherever the Episcopal Church has gained a footing between Lynchburg and Bristol it has been due in a great measure to the untiring efforts of this man of God."

On one occasion he traveled one hundred miles on horseback to hold a service in response to a call where there was only one Episcopalian. The journeys to places nearer by were often made in a wagon, taking his choir with him, so that the service might be

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

worthily rendered.

He was the founder of old St. Stephen's and Trinity Churches in Bedford County and was rector of both until 1839, when he was invited to take charge of St. Paul's Church in Petersburg. He was subsequently called to Cincinnati, and was thence transferred to the Bishopric of Alabama. He died in Alabama January 11, 1861.

BISHOP JAMES HERVEY OTEY

James Hervey Otey was born January 27, 1800, at "Fancy Farm," in Bedford County, the son of Major Isaac Otey and Elizabeth Matthews Otey. He was educated at New London Academy and the University of North Carolina, where he was graduated at the age of twenty and received, in addition to the degrees of A. B. and B. D., another which was said to have been contrived especially for him because of his unusual attainments, that of "Bachelor in Belles Lettres." He became tutor in Latin and Greek in the University, and in 1821 married Miss Eliza Pannill of Petersburg. Soon after his marriage he moved to Maury County, Tennessee, and opened a school for boys near Franklin. This he immediately abandoned to accept the presidency of Warrenton Academy, in North Carolina. Here he was ordained June 7, 1827, and soon returned to Franklin, Tenn., re-opened his school and combined the work of teaching with his pastoral work for eight years, numbering among his pupils Matthew F. Maury and Braxton and Thomas Bragg. In Philadelphia, January 14, 1834, he was ordained Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and later, became the founder of the classical and theological University of the South, at Sewanee, Tennessee.

Bishop Otey's achievements were mammoth, and to the very last his intellect was consecrated to his God, to the cause of education, to his Church and family, and to those of low degree with whom he came in contact as shepherd, priest and doctor of divinity. He died April 23, 1863, leaving a rich heritage and a life worthy of emulation.

Bishop Green said of him: "The County of Bedford in Virginia, lying at the eastern foot of the Blue Ridge, and overlooked by the Peaks of Otter, if without any other claim to distinction, may well boast of having been the birthplace of two of the best and best-beloved Bishops of the American Church. The memory of Otey and Cobbs will be fondly cherished by its citizens long after generations which once knew them, shall have passed away."

BISHOP JOHN EARLY

John Early was born January 1, 1786, near "Poplar Forest," and

A FEW OF BEDFORD'S FAMOUS SONS

began his religious labors among the slaves of Thomas Jefferson who lived on that estate. He was licensed to preach by the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of twenty, and is said to have converted and baptized his own father. He was a powerful preacher and most successful in revival meetings. In a camp meeting, which he held in Campbell County, one thousand persons were converted.

He was one of the founders of Randolph Macon College and was its rector for many years. He was active in the measure which resulted in the division of his church, and was president, pro tem, of the first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was made Bishop of this church in 1854.

Lynchburg was his working center and his home. His residence, which stood at the corner of Court and Seventh Streets, was torn down in 1833 by his great-great-grandson, John Early Jackson, and moved to Peakland, where it was rebuilt.

Bishop Early died in 1873 and is buried in beautiful Spring Hill cemetery, in Lynchburg, the land for which was donated by the bishop and his wife. A shaft has been erected to his memory by his brethren of the ministry.

THE REV. JEREMIAH BELL JETER, D. D.

Jeremiah Bell Jeter, intimately known as "Jerry Bell," was born near Otterville, Bedford County, July 18, 1802, the son of Pleasant and Jane Hatcher Jeter. He said of himself that he had no great ancestry, inheriting neither wealth nor honor; therefore it is all the more credit to him that he rose above his level and himself became a conspicuous honor to his name. The passion of his youth was a thirst for knowledge, but owing to poverty, scarcity of books and poor schools, his opportunities for gaining that knowledge were meager indeed.

He was converted at the age of nineteen and began preaching soon after. For several years he and a co-worker, Daniel Witt, labored as missionaries in the then undeveloped counties of Southwest Virginia. The work was hard and there was no salary attached, but the Baptist Church is largely indebted to these two men for laying the foundation of a work which has grown to its present large proportions.

Both of these young men felt very deeply their lack of preparation for the ministry and when an older preacher became interested in them and offered to secure means for educating them, they were greatly disappointed that the older brethren of the church felt that the need for ministers was so great that these two boys could not be spared to take time for further study.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Dr. Jeter held several pastorates, but not in his native county. He did visit in Bedford, however, conducting protracted meetings, for which he had a great gift. At the age of 34 he was called to the First Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, and continued there thirteen years. It is interesting to note that the membership at that time was 1,717-333 white and 1,384 colored members. These were fruitful years, not only in his own charge, but he was also active in the denominational work. His biographer says of him, "He was a prince in genius, piety and wisdom." One of the vexed questions of that time was the separation of the races in their church affiliations. Dr. Jeter was one of the leaders who finally settled it, amicably, and it was he who established the first African Baptist church in Richmond.

A lasting monument to his labors in Richmond was the handsome church on Broad Street, built during his pastorate, where the congregation worshipped for many years. Dr. Jeter resigned this charge and went to the Second Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, then the largest Baptist church in the South. After three years he was again called to Richmond—to Grace Street Church, which call he accepted and served seventeen years. Here, in his maturer years, he did his best work, as pastor of an important church and as leader in civic affairs. He died February 18, 1880, and was buried in Hollywood cemetery in Richmond.

THE REV. WILLIAM ELDRIDGE HATCHER, D. D.

Thirty-two years after the birth of Dr. Jeter, another son was born in the same little room of their grandfather's house on the north side of the county, William Eldridge Hatcher, son of Henry Hatcher and his second wife, Mary Latham Hatcher, and a first cousin of "Jerry Bell" Jeter, and like him was to spend many years doing important work for the Baptist denomination in Richmond. He was also a pastor of the Broad Street church and a leader in both religious and civic affairs. He was a preacher of note and much sought after for dedication of churches, being particularly successful in taking collections for the liquidation of their indebtedness. He was a man of high honor and strict integrity, but very human withal. He was specially fond of the game of croquet and said that he once refused to vote for a man because he had cheated in a game with him, believing that if he were dishonest in the small things of life, he could not be trusted in those of greater importance.

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Not all of Bedford's great men have been ministers of the Gospel. Some of her lawyers have attained state and national fame, while others of her sons have become widely known in other professions and

A FEW OF BEDFORD'S FAMOUS SONS

in the world of business.

WILLIAM LEFTWICH GOGGIN

Among Bedford's most distinguished men of the past century was William Leftwich Goggin, born May 31, 1807, died January 3, 1870, son of Pleasant Moorman Goggin and his wife, Mary Otey Leftwich, both of Bedford County and descended from old and honored families.

The early life of William L. Goggin was spent on his father's farm near Goode. He received from his parents the rudiments of an education and then attended several terms of a school in "Old Pisgah Meeting House," taught by a Mr. Spears. During these years he kept a diary, in which he recorded, "I read the classics, Horace, Virgil, Caesar, and Homer under Mr. Spears."

He studied law in Winchester, Virginia, and was admitted to the bar at the age of 21. With an indomitable will he applied himself to private study and, as a result, he acquired a liberal education and a profound knowledge of the law. By sheer industry, coupled with a strong intellect and unquestionable integrity, he attained a commanding place at the bar.

In 1836 Mr. Goggin was elected Bedford's representative in the State Legislature. He declined re-election. In 1839 he was elected to the United States Congress from the district then composed of Bedford, Amherst, Nelson, Albemarle, Greene, Orange, and Madison. He was re-elected in 1841, 1843, 1847, and 1849. He was a member of important committees in Congress and was chairman of the committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

In 1859 he was the Whig candidate for Governor of Virginia, but was defeated by John Letcher of Lexington by 19 votes. The Whig party presented him with a magnificent chest of silver, each piece of which was inscribed, "William Leftwich Goggin, from the Whigs of Virginia in acknowledgement of his gallant leadership of their forces in the State campaign of 1859, and of his steadfast devotion to the Constitution and the Union."

Mr. Goggin represented Bedford County in 1861 in the convention at Richmond which passed the Ordinance of Secession, and on the 26th and 27th of February, 1861, in a speech which lasted parts of the two days, he addressed the convention, stating his individual views on the question before the body. He said, "I came to this convention to act as I may think proper, without pledges and without platform." As a matter of fact, he went to the convention a Union man, but joined the secessionists when Lincoln declared his policy in his inaugural address.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

EDWARD CALOHILL BURKS

Edward Calohill Burks was the son of Martin Parks Burks and Louisa Claiborne Spinner Burks and was born at Locust Grove, near Sedalia, May 20, 1821. He attended the "old field schools" of the county, but even there he had the advantage of teachers trained in the classics. He began the study of Latin when he was ten years old and to the day of his death he quoted with the gusto of a connoisseur his early classic authors. He studied at New London Academy and in 1838 entered Washington College, now Washington and Lee University. In 1841 he was graduated with the highest honor of his class—the delivery of the Cincinnati Oration. In the fall of 1841 he entered the University of Virginia, studied under Henry St. George Tucker, and won his bachelor of laws degree in one year.

He began the practice of law in Liberty and in 1845 he married Mildred Elizabeth Buford, daughter of Captain Paschal Buford, of "Locust Level," and Frances Otey, daughter of Major Isaac Otey, of "Fancy Farm." Of frail body, with an unusually analytical mind, he soon rose to prominence, and in 1861, not being strong enough to enter the military service, he served his state in the fateful legislature of secession days. He opposed secession as long as it was humanly possible to do so, and then drew up the resolutions adopted by Bedford County, March 29, recommending secession.

In 1877 Mr. Burks took his place as a justice of the Virginia Court of Appeals and served with distinction until during the "re-adjuster" revolution, when he and other conservatives were swept from office in Virginia.

After this Judge Burks resumed a successful and lucrative practice in Liberty, was the senior member of the commission which codified the laws of Virginia into the Code of 1887, and in 1895 began the publication of the Virginia Law Register, which he edited until his death, July 4, 1897. He was buried in Longwood cemetery in the town of Bedford.

"JOHN GOODE OF VIRGINIA"

John Goode, son of John and Ann M. Leftwich Goode, was born in Bedford County May 27, 1829. His education followed the usual course of the youth of that day. Early schooling in the old field schools of the county and at New London Academy was followed by three years at Emory and Henry College.

Having chosen the practice of law as his vocation, Mr. Goode attended the Lexington Law School from 1849 to 1851. Returning to his home in 1851 he was admitted to the Bedford bar and imme-

A FEW OF BEDFORD'S FAMOUS SONS

diately began the practice of his profession. He was elected to the State Legislature the same year, and thus was begun the political career which was to lead him to high place in state and nation.

In 1861, he was chosen to represent the county of Bedford in the convention which came to be known as the "Secession Convention." Upon adjournment of this convention he returned to his native county and enlisted as a member of the cavalry company organized by Captain (afterwards General) William R. Terry. In February 1862, he laid down his duties in the army to assume those of a representative in Congress, where his service to the end of the war was conspicuous and distinguished.

Honor upon honor was heaped upon him throughout his career by both state and nation, but perhaps those most highly esteemed by him were the presidency of the Virginia Bar Association in 1899, and the call to represent his native county in the Constitutional Convention of 1901, of which convention he was elected president.

Walton Moore of Fairfax County, in making the nomination, concluded with these words: "Mr. Goode is a familiar presence in this historic hall. Here, in the springtime of his life, he sat as a member of the General Assembly. Here, when his powers had matured, he stood with the statesmen of Virginia and the South, dealing with mighty issues which developed upon the Secession Convention and the Confederate Congress. And now he comes here in the evening of his days, to contribute what may be his last labours to the great work which the sovereign people of this Commonwealth have decreed. Unchallenged and unsurpassed in experience and patriotism, in wisdom and in moderation, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully nominate him for the Presidency of this Convention."

Mr. Goode died in 1909, and his remains rest in Longwood Cemetery in the county of his birth. This epitaph is carved on the stone which marks his grave:

His mother, Virginia, summoned him to
her highest service at every epoch of her
history after he attained to man's estate

And

He responded to the voice of her authority
with the filial devotion which became a
loyal son, until, here at last, safe in
the affections of his countrymen, he sleeps
on the bosom of the everlasting hills.

THE HISTORY OF BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

A citizen without guile
A statesman without craft
A soldier without fear
A patriot without reproach
A Virginian worthy of the
Commonwealth's ancient renown

JAMES STEPTOE

The county records show that Benjamin Howard was the first clerk of the court, and that he served until 1771. He was succeeded by James Steptoe, who, though not a native of Bedford, was so long identified with the county that Bedford claims him as her own.

He was born July 16, 1750, at "Hominy Hall," the ancestral home of the Steptoe family in Westmoreland County. He was connected by both blood and marriage with the Washingtons and Lees. He was educated at the College of William and Mary, and while there made the acquaintance of Thomas Jefferson, a fellow student. There grew up between them a close friendship which continued throughout their lives. It was principally through the influence of Mr. Jefferson that on September 24, 1771, he was made clerk of the district court, then held at New London, Bedford's county seat, and was at the same time made clerk of the county court. The latter office he held until the close of his life.

"Jemmy" Steptoe married in 1781 Frances Callaway, daughter of Col. James and Sarah Tate Callaway. They had five sons, James C., William, George, Robert C., and Thomas, and four daughters, Elizabeth P., who married Charles Johnston; Frances, who married Henry S. Langhorne; Lucy, who married Robert Penn; and Sallie, who married William Massie. Mr. Steptoe died in 1826 and was buried in the old Callaway cemetery near New London. The table-like marble which marks his resting place bears the simple, dignified inscription, "Sacred to the memory of James Steptoe, Sr., Clerk of Bedford County 54 years. Died Feby. 1826, aged 76 years. Also Frances, his wife, died December, 1807, aged 45 years."

Mr. Steptoe was succeeded in office by his son, James Callaway Steptoe, who survived his father only one year. James C. Steptoe married Katherine ("Kitty") Mitchell of Amherst County, and their daughter, Frances, married Hon. William M. Burwell and became mistress of "Avenel." During the last years of her long life she wrote her recollections of her grandfather, James Steptoe, and his home, "Federal Hill," which still stands about one mile north of New London.

A FEW OF BEDFORD'S FAMOUS SONS

SAMUEL M. BOLLING

Samuel Mordecai Bolling was born at "Center Hill," the ancestral Bolling home in Petersburg, Virginia, December 29, 1846. His father was Robert Buckner Bolling and his mother was Sarah Melville Minge. He attended Bellevue University School, in Bedford County, of which James P. Holcombe, later professor of law at the University of Virginia, was headmaster. He married Elizabeth Breckenridge Watts Holcombe, daughter of Professor Holcombe.

For some years Mr. Bolling resided at his county home, "Mount Prospect," at the foot of the Peaks of Otter. Later, because of the ill health of Mrs. Bolling, he moved to Liberty. On September 11, 1918, some years after the death of Mrs. Bolling, he married Bessie L. Clark, daughter of Isaac Newton and Laura Bradley Clark, of Bedford. He died July 31, 1927, at his home in the town of Bedford.

Samuel M. Bolling was one of Bedford's most popular and prominent citizens. When a youth below the age of conscription, he enlisted as a soldier in the Confederate Army. Later, coming to mature years, he served as a member of the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, of the House of Delegates of Virginia, also as Clerk of the County Court of Bedford, as superintendent of the State penitentiary, and as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Bedford.

A man of patrician birth and bearing, he was also a man of simple tastes and habits, of genuine love for the people of his county; a man of strong convictions, of independence in utterance, of generosity, of loyalty, and of the highest integrity.

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